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HC stays cutting of more trees on BU campus

BENGALURU
The High Court has restrained the authorities from cutting more trees, for now, on the lands allotted or leased to various public and autonomous institutions on the Jnana Bharati campus of Bangalore University. » PAGE 2

Panel formed to implement SEP recommendations

BENGALURU
The government has appointed a five-member expert committee to examine and implement recommendations related to higher education in the SEP. » PAGE 2

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India posts 8.2% Q2 GDP growth, tops six quarters

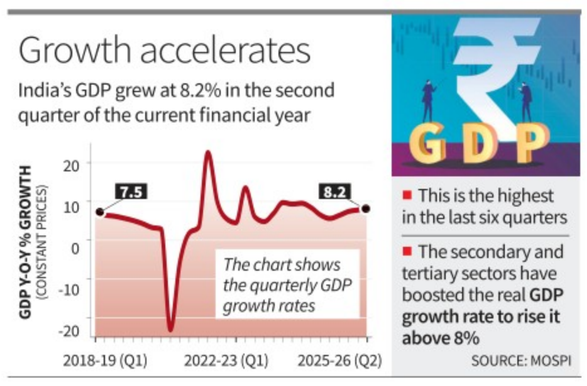
Manufacturing and services sectors record strong performance; GDP growth in first half of FY26 stands at 8%; Cong. questions the data, noting irony after the IMF again gave Indian statistics a 'C'

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

India's GDP grew at a six-quarter high of 8.2% in the second quarter (July-September) of the financial year 2025-26, buoyed by a relatively strong performance of the manufacturing and services sectors, official data showed.

Data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on Friday showed that the last time India's GDP grew faster was in the quarter ending March 2024, the final quarter of 2023-24.

The growth in Q2 of 2025-26 was significantly faster than the 5.6% growth recorded in the corresponding quarter last year, and even faster than the 7.8% in Q1 of this year.


Growth accelerates
India's GDP grew at 8.2% in the second quarter of the current financial year
GDP Y-O-Y % GROWTH (CONSTANT PRICES)
20
10
0
-10
-20
7.5
8.2
The chart shows the quarterly GDP growth rates
2018-19 (Q1)
2022-23 (Q1)
2025-26 (Q2)
GDP
This is the highest in the last six quarters
The secondary and tertiary sectors have boosted the real GDP growth rate to rise it above 8%
SOURCE: MOSPI

Taken together, growth in the first half of this financial year stands at 8%.

PM's praise

"The 8.2% GDP growth in Q2 of 2025-26 is very encouraging," Prime Minister Narendra Modi posted on X. It reflects the impact of pro-growth policies and reforms, and the hard work of people, he said.

However, economists say that while the real GDP growth rate – which removes the inflation effect – has been higher than expected, the relatively low nominal growth rate of 8.7% shows economic activity is still subdued. "The sharply higher than expected 2QFY26 GDP was broad based but comes on the back of a very low deflator," Upasna Bhardwaj, chief economist at Kotak Mahindra Bank, said. "The single digit nominal GDP growth continues to signal tepid underlying activity."

According to Bank of Baroda chief economist Madan Sabnavis, this lower nominal GDP growth would make it more difficult for the government to achieve its fiscal deficit target of 4.4%, which had been pegged to a nominal growth of 10.1%.

The Congress hit out, pointing out the irony of the data being released days after the IMF gave India's national accounts the second-lowest rating of 'C'. The IMF had kept the grade unchanged from the previous year.

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Trump says he will stop all migration from 'Third World' after DC shooting

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Thursday he would suspend migration from what he called "Third World countries", a day after an Afghan national allegedly shot two National Guard soldiers in Washington, killing one.

His social media post, which also threatened to reverse "millions" of admissions granted under his predecessor Joe Biden, marked a new escalation in the anti-migration stance.

Mr. Trump said earlier that Sarah Beckstrom, a 20-year-old West Virginia National Guard member deployed in Washington as part of his crackdown on crime, had died from her wounds.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has launched an international terror investigation as new details emerged about the alleged gunman, a 29-year-old Afghan national who was a member of the 'Zero Units', a Central Intelligence Agency-backed counterterrorism group, according to multiple U.S. media reports.

The shooting on Wednesday, which officials described as an "ambush-style" attack, has brought together three politically explosive issues: Mr. Trump's controversial use of the military at home, immigration, and the legacy of the U.S. war in Afghanistan.

"I will permanently pause migration from all Third World countries to allow the U.S. system to fully recover," Mr. Trump wrote on social media.

> Even as we have progressed technologically, immigration policy has eroded those gains and living conditions for many. I will permanently pause migration from all Third World countries to allow the U.S. system to fully recover
>
> **DONALD TRUMP**
> U.S. President

CONTINUED ON
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Siddaramaiah, Shivakumar to break bread together today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Congress high command is believed to have told both leaders to hold a breakfast meeting to control the damage to the party and the government ahead of the legislature session

A day after Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy D.K. Shivakumar used social media to target each other amidst a leadership battle, both have decided to hold a breakfast meeting on Saturday at the former's residence here.

The Chief Minister said, "High command telephoned and told both of us to meet. Therefore, I invited him for a breakfast meeting."

The Chief Minister reiterated that there was no change in his stand. "I will listen to whatever high command says. He (Mr. Shivakumar) has also said that several times," Mr Siddaramaiah said.

When asked whether he would go to Delhi, Mr. Siddaramaiah said he would do so if invited.

In a damage-control exercise, the high command is believed to have instructed both leaders to hold a breakfast meeting.

As the Winter Session of the State legislature session would commence on December 8 in Belagavi, the meeting between two Congress leaders would also send a message to the rival Bharatiya Janata Party and the Janata Dal (Secular) that all is well in the ruling dispensation. The Winter Session of Parliament begins on Monday.

Though the two leaders expressed their views criticising each other, they attended the Cabinet meeting and several official functions of the government in the last few days.

Sources also said the breakfast meeting would also provide the high command some leeway to hold talks with the two leaders and buy some time to take firm decisions in the interests of the party.

The question is whether the breakfast meeting between the two leaders would be just a photo opportunity or provide a common ground to make a temporary truce.

RELATED REPORTS
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Nearly 100 killed as Cyclone Ditwah batters Sri Lanka

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

Nearly 100 people have been reported dead and dozens are missing in Sri Lanka, as of Friday evening, amid incessant rain and strong winds, as Cyclone Ditwah appears to be moving north and northwest towards the coast of Tamil Nadu.

The island has been experiencing torrential downpour over the last couple of days. According to the Department of Meteorology and the Disaster Management Centre, 20 out of Sri Lanka's 25 districts are badly hit, with over 60,000 families and 2,00,000 people directly affected amid an island-wide "red alert".

Reports indicate that the impact of the extreme weather conditions is especially severe along the east coast – in Ampara, Batticaloa, and Trincomalee – as well as in the Central Province. Several areas remain heavily flooded, while roads remain inundated and inaccessible in the hill country.

President Anura Kumara Dissanayake urged MPs from both the government and the Opposition to visit their districts and help with relief distribution while urgently ensuring public safety.

Rain fury: People move through a flooded road after heavy rainfall in Kaduwela, on the outskirts of Colombo, on Friday. AFP

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T.N., A.P. coasts brace for impact of cyclone; IMD issues rain alert

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI/VISAKHAPATNAM

The India Meteorological Department issued red and orange alerts for various districts of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh as Cyclone Ditwah continued to move over coastal Sri Lanka and the adjoining southwest Bay of Bengal on Friday.

The cyclone is very likely to reach over southwest Bay of Bengal near north Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and adjoining south Andhra Pradesh coasts by early Sunday, said a bulletin issued by the Regional Meteorological Centre, Chennai, at 6 p.m. on Friday. The RMC's projection indicates that the cyclone is likely to move parallel to the Tamil Nadu coast and is likely to lose intensity as deep depression by Sunday evening.

Heavy to very heavy rainfall may lash 14 districts of Tamil Nadu, including Chennai, on Saturday. For Sunday, Chennai and the surrounding districts are under an orange alert, with red alert for Tiruvallur and Ranipet.

The IMD has issued an orange alert, with heavy to very heavy rainfall at one or two places, for Sri Potti Sriramulu Nellore, Chittoor and Tirupati districts of Andhra Pradesh on Saturday. A red alert has been issued with the possible occurrence of extremely heavy rainfall at one or two places over SPSR Nellore, Chittoor, Tirupati and Annamayya districts on Sunday.

Gita guides not only individuals but also policies of nation: Modi

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday that the words in the Bhagavad Gita guide not only individuals but also the policies of the nation.

Speaking at the Laksha Kantha Gita Parayana programme organised by Udupi Sri Krishna Mutt and Paryaya Puthige Mutt in Udupi, he said that the teachings of Lord Sri Krishna in the holy text were "practical in every age".

The programme was a devotional gathering of thousands of participants, including students, monks, scholars, and citizens from various walks of life, who recited verses from 18 chapters of the Bhagavad Gita in unison.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Paryaya Puthige Mutt seer Sugunendra Tirtha Swami in Udupi on Friday. H.S. MANJUNATH

Speaking of tMadhwacharya, who hailed from Udupi, the Prime Minister said, "Throughout his life, Jagadguru Madhwacharya, who propounded the Dwaita philosophy, carried these sentiments and strengthened the unity of India," he said.

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Putin to visit India for annual summit next week

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Russian President Vladimir Putin will make a two-day visit to India from December 4 to hold annual summit talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the External Affairs Ministry announced on Friday.

Mr. Putin will lead the Russian delegation in the 23rd India-Russia annual summit, the Ministry said. "The forthcoming state visit will provide an opportunity for the leadership of India and Russia to review progress in bilateral relations, set the vision for strengthening the 'special and privileged strategic partnership' and exchange views on regional and global issues of mutual interest," it added.

Mr. Putin will also meet President Droupadi Murmu, who will host a state banquet in his honour. He earlier visited India in 2021, for the 21st India-Russia annual summit.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Russian President Vladimir Putin before a meeting in New Delhi in December 2021. AFP

Russia launched the "Special Military Operation" against Ukraine on February 24, 2022, which attracted tough western sanctions on Russia, prompting a reorientation of India-Russia trade ties where energy became a major component for the first time.

Russian energy import to India has been a major issue in India-U.S. relations since President Donald Trump imposed punitive sanctions on India in August for purchasing Russian crude oil.

India has been calling for an end to the Ukrainian conflict, with Mr. Modi saying, "this is not the time for war".

Trade deficit

During Mr. Putin's visit, New Delhi is expected to press for addressing the increasing trade deficit caused by India's procurement of large volumes of Russian crude oil.

The two sides are also likely to focus on deepening cooperation in areas of civil nuclear energy.

The Kremlin said Mr. Putin's visit carried "significant importance" as it offered an opportunity to review the entire spectrum of the special and privileged strategic partnership – from politics, trade and the economy to science, technology, and cultural and humanitarian ties.

"The current international and regional issues will also feature prominently in the talks with the Indian delegation led by Prime Minister Modi," it said.

(With PTI inputs)

DEFENCE MINISTERS TO MEET
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SAHAJA YAMALAPALLI

MURALI KUMAR K

SHRIVALLI BHAMIDIPATY

What Indian women's tennis needs to bridge the gulf to the elite

The Billie Jean King Cup playoffs in Bengaluru came as a reality check — but there were also positives for singles players Sahaja Yamalapalli and Shrivalli Bhamidipaty, who don't always get to face world-class opposition. What lessons can be learnt from the experience to better empower India's young players?

Ashwin Achal

There was a sense of pride around India's campaign in the Billie Jean King Cup playoffs held in Bengaluru earlier this month. There were video messages from stars across sports – Sania Mirza, Rohan Bopanna, Mahesh Bhupathi, Veda Krishnamurthy, Abhinav Bindra, Anjum Chopra and others – wishing the Indian women the best.

The heightened sense of anticipation was understandable, given that this was the first time that the BJK Cup playoffs were being staged in India. The Indian women had also come this far in the tournament for only the second time (the maiden playoffs appearance was in 2020-21).

Air of optimism

Even before Sahaja Yamalapalli, Shrivalli Bhamidipaty, Ankita Raina and Prarthana Thombare stepped onto the S.M. Krishna Tennis Stadium court for the opening rubber, there was a celebratory mood, a warm feeling that Indian women's tennis had come a long way.

This optimism was a cushion for the fall to come. On the court, the gulf in class was unmistakable. Against the likes of 2021 French Open semifinalist Tamara Zidansek, former World No. 58 Kaja Juvan (both from Slovenia), World No. 87 Suzan Lamens and top-200 player Anouk Koevermans (both from The Netherlands), the host came undone. Sahaja (World No. 307) and Shrivalli (World No. 394), who only get to face world-class opponents on rare occasions, managed to win just one set between them in four singles outings. Ankita and Prarthana fared better in the doubles, notching up one win and a loss.

> We have come a long way. I am really proud of all the girls in our team. We definitely need more support, more tournaments, and a better system. This will help us rise even further
>
> **SAHAJA YAMALAPALLI**
> India No. 1

Despite the four losses, there were positives for Sahaja and Shrivalli. There was a noticeable zip in Sahaja's groundstrokes, while Shrivalli came armed with two weapons so essential in modern-day tennis – a strong serve and a powerful forehand.

India's run in the 'Women's World Cup of Tennis' thus came to an end, but the focus shifts to how the players can build on this experience and take their game to the next level. The first step towards having players consistently in the top-100 is to host more tournaments in India. This will give budding talent access to ranking points and match exposure, without having to stretch limited financial resources with travel costs.

Sahaja echoed these views, adding that the development of women's tennis in India is a work in progress. "We have come a long way. I am really proud of all the girls in our team. We definitely need more support, more tournaments, and a better system. This will help us rise even further," she said.

As it stands, India has hosted seven ITF and two WTA tournaments in 2025, and is set to stage three more ITF events in December. The ITF tournaments, which serve as a developmental circuit for the WTA Tour, provide the ideal opportunity for Indians to collect the ranking points needed to be eligible for main draw entry in higher-level Challenger and WTA events. Karnataka State Lawn Tennis Association (KSLTA) joint secretary Sunil Yajaman believes that Sahaja and Shrivalli have the skill to enter the top-100.

"To play more ITF tournaments in India is the only logical step that Sahaja and Shrivalli can take. All our players should be able to get into the top-300 without having to travel out of India. We need to have that many ITF tournaments in India to make this a reality," Yajaman said.

"If you are able to have at least 20 weeks of ITF tournaments in India, to go with the WTA 100 and 125 events, I see no reason why we cannot have at least 20 players in the top-300. From here, 10 will be able to get into main draws of Challengers in India and abroad. This is where they will be able to play at a higher level consistently and raise their ranking. But it all starts with giving them the chance to reach the top-300 without spending too much money."

Hosts with the most

The KSLTA and the Maharashtra State Lawn Tennis Association have taken big strides towards organising ITF tournaments. The KSLTA recently announced that the KPB Trust Women's Open ITF W100 Bengaluru will return for a fifth edition next year. Yajaman stated that it is not difficult for State associations to find adequate sponsorship to host tournaments.

"We have done it at the KSLTA; we know what it takes. States like Karnataka or Maharashtra are able to have seven to eight weeks of tournament dates in a year. Two or three more States can easily do five to six weeks. My request is if every State association can have at least one tournament, then the tennis calendar will be full. Odisha has shown the way now, with their government providing support. Everyone has to make an effort," Yajaman said.

In the view of India BJK Cup captain Vishal Uppal, the Bengaluru leg was a big learning experience. Uppal is all for more tournament play, but is the first to admit that the players have to put in the work, too.

Fitness and temperament are two aspects that Indian talent must strive to improve, Uppal said.

"Both Slovenia and the Netherlands beat us on athleticism and maturity. We had a lot of chances, a lot of games we were 40-0 up, 40-15 up, but we just didn't convert. This is where maturity comes in. The girls from Slovenia and Netherlands played predominantly risk-free tennis, while we were going for it a bit too much. We need to get a little bit more disciplined and put the pressure on the opponent a lot more," Uppal said.

"The top players run down every shot. This forces the opponents to work the point a little harder. If you have to work harder on points, this means you also have to work on your own fitness in order to be able to sustain yourself through the match."

Uppal, a former national champion, recalled watching Sania, the gold standard in Indian women's tennis. The ferocious mindset that powered the former World No. 27 is something that the current generation must emulate, Uppal said. "Sania stood apart thanks to her tenacity and mentality. This is something that our girls can learn from. Sania never backed down from a fight. If the girls can imbibe this mentality, they will do well."

Putting it in context

All things considered, Uppal believes that the players should be praised for reaching the playoffs, and not criticised for failing to advance to the Qualifiers round.

"There is absolutely no failure. We hold our heads high and walk off the court. I'm very proud of the effort the girls have put in. Look, we're playing at a level we're not used to playing at. Just getting to this level is a big feat. We beat some top quality teams to get here. Don't forget, this is only the second time in 46 years that we've got to the playoff stage. Let us not pull our girls down. Let's lift them up so that they come back tougher, fitter, faster, harder," Uppal said.

STACKING UP

ATP Men's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Carlos Alcaraz	22	12,050	19
2	Jannik Sinner	24	11,500	18
3	Alexander Zverev	28	5,160	24
4	Novak Djokovic	38	4,830	20
5	Felix Auger-Aliassime	25	4,245	28
6	Taylor Fritz	28	4,135	23
7	Alex de Minaur	26	4,135	23
8	Lorenzo Musetti	23	4,040	23
9	Ben Shelton	23	3,970	23
10	Jack Draper	23	2,990	17
11	Alexander Bublik	28	2,870	29
12	Casper Ruud	26	2,835	21
13	Daniil Medvedev	29	2,760	24
14	A. Davidovich Fokina	26	2,635	26
15	Holger Rune	22	2,590	21

Top Indians ▶

Sumit Nagal
Rank 276 ▼ 3 spots

Aryan Shah
Rank 403 ▼ 4 spots

WTA Women's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Aryna Sabalenka	27	10,870	21
2	Iga Swiatek	24	8,395	21
3	Coco Gauff	21	6,763	21
4	Amanda Anisimova	24	6,287	23
5	Elena Rybakina	26	5,850	23
6	Jessica Pegula	31	5,583	23
7	Madison Keys	30	4,335	21
8	Jasmine Paolini	29	4,325	19
9	Mirra Andreeva	18	4,319	19
10	Ekaterina Alexandrova	31	3,375	27
11	Belinda Bencic	28	3,168	22
12	Clara Tauson	22	2,770	23
13	Linda Noskova	21	2,641	25
14	Elina Svitolina	31	2,606	16
15	Emma Navarro	24	2,515	25

Top Indians ▶

Sahaja Yamalapalli
Rank 307 ▲ 3 spots

Shrivalli Bhamidipaty
Rank 394 ▼ 8 spots

English Premier League Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Arsenal	12	9	2	1	24	6	18	29
2	Chelsea	12	7	2	3	23	11	12	23
3	Man. City	12	7	1	4	24	10	14	22
4	Aston Villa	12	6	3	3	15	11	4	21
5	Crystal Palace	12	5	5	2	16	9	7	20
6	Brighton	12	5	4	3	19	16	3	19
7	Sunderland	12	5	4	3	14	11	3	19
8	Bournemouth	12	5	4	3	19	20	-1	19
9	Tottenham	12	5	3	4	20	14	6	18
10	Man. United	12	5	3	4	19	19	0	18
11	Everton	12	5	3	4	13	13	0	18
12	Liverpool	12	6	0	6	18	20	-2	18
13	Brentford	12	5	1	6	18	19	-1	16
14	Newcastle	12	4	3	5	13	15	-2	15
15	Fulham	12	4	2	6	13	16	-3	14
16	N. Forest	12	3	3	6	13	20	-7	12
17	West Ham	12	3	2	7	15	25	-10	11
18	Leeds United	12	3	2	7	11	22	-11	11
19	Burnley	12	3	1	8	14	24	-10	10
20	Wolves	12	0	2	10	7	27	-20	2

Italian Serie A Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Roma	12	9	0	3	15	6	9	27
2	AC Milan	12	7	4	1	18	9	9	25
3	Napoli	12	8	1	3	19	11	8	25
4	Inter Milan	12	8	0	4	26	13	13	24
5	Bologna	12	7	3	2	21	8	13	24
6	Como	12	5	6	1	17	7	10	21
7	Juventus	12	5	5	2	15	11	4	20
8	Lazio	12	5	3	4	15	9	6	18
9	Sassuolo	12	5	2	5	16	14	2	17
10	Udinese	12	4	3	5	12	20	-8	15
11	Cremonese	12	3	5	4	13	16	-3	14
12	Torino	12	3	5	4	11	21	-10	14
13	Atalanta	12	2	7	3	14	14	0	13
14	Cagliari	12	2	5	5	12	17	-5	11
15	Parma	12	2	5	5	9	15	-6	11
16	Pisa	12	1	7	4	10	16	-6	10
17	Lecce	12	2	4	6	8	16	-8	10
18	Genoa	12	1	5	6	11	19	-8	8
19	Fiorentina	12	0	6	6	10	19	-9	6
20	Verona	12	0	6	6	7	18	-11	6

Spanish LaLiga Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Real Madrid	13	10	2	1	28	12	16	32
2	Barcelona	13	10	1	2	36	15	21	31
3	Villarreal	13	9	2	2	26	11	15	29
4	Atletico Madrid	13	8	4	1	25	11	14	28
5	Real Betis	13	5	6	2	20	14	6	21
6	Espanyol	13	6	3	4	17	16	1	21
7	Getafe	13	5	2	6	12	15	-3	17
8	Athletic Club	13	5	2	6	12	17	-5	17
9	Real Sociedad	13	4	4	5	17	18	-1	16
10	Elche	13	3	7	3	15	16	-1	16
11	Sevilla	13	5	1	7	19	21	-2	16
12	Celta Vigo	13	3	7	3	16	18	-2	16
13	Rayo Vallecano	13	4	4	5	12	14	-2	16
14	Alaves	13	4	3	6	11	12	-1	15
15	Valencia	13	3	4	6	12	21	-9	13
16	Real Mallorca	13	3	3	7	13	20	-7	12
17	Osasuna	13	3	2	8	10	16	-6	11
18	Girona	13	2	5	6	12	25	-13	11
19	Levante	13	2	3	8	16	24	-8	9
20	Real Oviedo	13	2	3	8	7	20	-13	9

German Bundesliga Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Bayern	11	10	1	0	41	8	33	31
2	RB Leipzig	11	8	1	2	22	13	9	25
3	Leverkusen	11	7	2	2	27	15	12	23
4	Dortmund	11	6	4	1	19	10	9	22
5	Stuttgart	11	7	1	3	20	15	5	22
6	E. Frankfurt	11	6	2	3	27	22	5	20
7	Hoffenheim	11	6	2	3	22	17	5	20
8	Union Berlin	11	4	3	4	14	17	-3	15
9	Werder	11	4	3	4	15	20	-5	15
10	Cologne	11	4	2	5	20	19	1	14
11	SC Freiburg	11	3	4	4	15	20	-5	13
12	M'gladbach	11	3	3	5	16	19	-3	12
13	FC Augsburg	11	3	1	7	15	24	-9	10
14	Hamburg	11	2	3	6	9	17	-8	9
15	Wolfsburg	11	2	2	7	13	21	-8	8
16	St Pauli	11	2	1	8	9	21	-12	7
17	Mainz	11	1	3	7	11	19	-8	6
18	Heidenheim	11	1	2	8	8	26	-18	5

Test Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Joe Root	884	932
2	Harry Brook	853	898
3	Kane Williamson	850	919
4	Steve Smith	809	947
5	Temba Bavuma	794	806
6	Travis Head	792	884
7	Kamindu Mendis	781	784
8	Yashasvi Jaiswal	749	858
9	Daryl Mitchell	748	804
10	Ben Duckett	739	787

Test Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Jasprit Bumrah	895	908
2	Matt Henry	846	846
3	Noman Ali	843	853
4	Pat Cummins	830	914
5	Mitchell Starc	820	820
6	Kagiso Rabada	815	902
7	Josh Hazlewood	807	864
8	Scott Boland	785	784
9	Nathan Lyon	765	812
10	Marco Jansen	761	803

ODI Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Rohit Sharma	781	882
2	Daryl Mitchell	766	782
3	Ibrahim Zadran	764	764
4	Shubman Gill	745	847
5	Virat Kohli	725	909
6	Babar Azam	722	898
7	Harry Tector	708	767
8	Shai Hope	701	802
9	Shreyas Iyer	700	710
10	Charith Asalanka	690	725

ODI Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Rashid Khan	710	799
2	Jofra Archer	670	683
3	Keshav Maharaj	660	741
4	Maheesh Theekshana	647	686
5	Bernard Scholtz	645	648
6	Mitchell Santner	636	657
7	Kuldeep Yadav	634	761
8	Josh Hazlewood	628	727
9	Abrar Ahmed	624	630
10	Matt Henry	619	691

T20I Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Abhishek Sharma	920	931
2	Phil Salt	849	881
3	Pathum Nissanka	794	794
4	Sahibzada Farhan	776	776
5	Jos Buttler	770	794
6	Tilak Varma	761	845
7	Travis Head	713	885
8	Suryakumar Yadav	691	912
9	Mitchell Marsh	684	694
10	Tim Seifert	683	727

T20I Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Varun Chakaravarthy	780	803
2	Jacob Duffy	699	750
3	Rashid Khan	694	828
4	Wanindu Hasaranga	692	809
5	Adil Rashid	686	747
6	Akeal Hosein	675	726
7	Nathan Ellis	660	678
8	Abrar Ahmed	659	703
9	Adam Zampa	655	746
10	Mustafizur Rahman	649	718

Panel formed to implement SEP recommendations, but only in higher education

It has been given two weeks' time to submit report; however, educationists have objected that no expert committee has been formed to implement recommendations related to school education

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The SEP Commission, headed by educationist Sukhdeo Thorat, submitted the final report of the SEP to the government on August 9, 2025.

The State government has appointed a five-member expert committee headed by the Principal Secretary of the Higher Education Department to examine and implement the recommendations related to higher education in the State Education Policy (SEP) final report, submitted to the government by the SEP Commission.

The vice-president of the Karnataka State Higher Education Council, the Commissioner of the Department of Collegiate and Technical Education and the Director of the Department of Technical Education are members of the committee, and the Special Officer of the Higher Education Department is the member-secretary.

The committee has been given two weeks' time to submit its report to the government.

However, educationists have objected to the fact that no expert committee has been formed to implement the recommendations related to school education. "It is doubtful that the SEP will be implemented comprehensively," an educationist said.

The SEP Commission, headed by educationist Sukhdeo Thorat, submitted the final report of the State Education Policy consisting of 2,197 pages to the government on August 9, 2025. The report made a total of 26 major recommendations related to primary education, 52 to higher education, and 20 recommendations to professional education.

"As per the interim report submitted to the government by the SEP Commission, an order has been issued with appropriate guidelines regarding the duration and syllabus of degree programmes in universities and colleges under the jurisdiction of the Higher Education Department from the year 2024-25," the order said. The commission has made 26 major recommendations related to school education, including the two-language policy, Kannada/mother tongue medium of instruction up to class 5 in all board schools and others. The educationists have objected to the government move of not making any proposals regarding the implementation of the recommendations for school education.

Niranjanaradhya. V.P., development educationist, said, "Nearly 30 task force committees had worked hard for nearly two and half years to evolve a holistic State Education Policy. The policy report should be implemented in letter and spirit instead of implementing it in bits and pieces. The policy recommendations part could have been placed in the Cabinet for approval to discuss the policy document in the forthcoming legislative session. Then it would've been the State official policy document irrespective of political parties. We need a clear roadmap to implement the policy in toto."

V. Rashmi Mahesh, Principal Secretary, Department of School Education and Literacy, said, "Many aspects of the SEP have already been adopted in school education system. Regarding the implementation of the remaining recommendations, a decision will be taken soon after discussing with the Minister of School Education."

HC stays cutting of more trees on lands allotted to various institutions in BU

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Friday restrained the authorities from cutting more trees, for now, on the lands allotted or leased to various public and autonomous institutions for establishing their offices, on the Jnana Bharati campus of Bangalore University (BU).

The court has also directed the authorities to give details of trees already cut on the allotted lands for the construction of buildings.
K. MURALI KUMAR

Details sought

Also, the court directed the authorities to give details of trees already cut on the allotted lands for the construction of buildings.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C.M. Poonacha passed the interim order on the PIL filed by Swayam Jagruti Seva Trust, Mudalapalya, Bengaluru. The bench, on November 21, had ordered issue of notice on the petition to the State government and others, including the institutions that are beneficiaries of lands on the campus, while adjourning further hearing till December 9.

Also, the bench had directed the government to produce necessary details indicating the decision making process on the question on whether the concerned authority had examined the necessity for diversion of forest land stated to have been reserved for biopark before allotting lands to various institutions. However, the petitioner filed an application for urgent hearing complaining that some trees were being already cut and some trees were translocated from some of the allotted lands to make away for the construction of buildings. Now, the Bench will hear the petition on December 9 to examine the details to be provided by the government.

Lands granted

The government had allotted lands on the Jnana Bharati campus in favour of the University Grants Commission, Inter University Center For Yogic-Science, Central University of Karnataka, Central Board of Secondary, Council of Architecture, National Assessment and Accreditation Council, University of Visvesvaraya College of Engineering, and National Law School of India University.

Lecturers stage protest in city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Lecturers of various government and aided Pre-University colleges staging a protest at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Friday.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Opposing the government's move to assign Pre-Univeristy lecturers to teach the students of class 9 and 10, lecturers of various government and aided Pre-University colleges (PU) staged a protest at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Friday.

They urged the government not to interfere in the autonomy of the colleges. They said that the Department of Pre-University Education has proposed an amendment to the Karnataka General Services (Pre-University Education) (Recruitment) Rules 2013 where PU lecturers are asked to teach class 9 and 10. "With the existing system, there are separate cadres and recruitment (C&R) rules for the staff of PU and high school. The high school teachers are within Group-C, while the PU college lecturers are in Group-B. The undergraduate education is not an extension of the school level, it is the source of preparation for higher education. The amendment proposal will create additional teaching burden and hinder the lecturers' commitment to their duties," they alleged.

4,679 receive degrees at REVA varsity convocation

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In the 10th annual convocation of REVA University, 4,679 graduates, including 3,408 undergraduates, 1,194 postgraduates, and 77 PhD scholars, were awarded degrees. In addition, 70 exceptional students were honoured with gold medals in recognition of their exemplary academic performance.

BIG IMPACT AWARDS 2025
EMBRACING UNCONVENTIONAL EXCELLENCE
CELEBRATING IMPACT BUSINESSES OF BENGALURU
92.7 BIG FM
S JAGADEESH
(S G GROUP DEVELOPERS & PROMOTERS) FOR BEST RESIDENTIAL PLOT & DEVELOPERS OF THE YEAR
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(TIDI ACADEMY PVT LTD) FOR BEST STOCK MARKET TRAINING INSTITUTE IN KARNATAKA
SHASHIKUMAR .L
(RUSHIKAA GOLD PRIVATE LIMITED) FOR THE CATEGORY OF GOLD BUYING
MR. KIRAN JOSHUA
(BHANDHAN PROPERTIES) FOR THE CATEGORY OF REAL ESTATE
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MRS. VANI SUDHAKAR
(RAJARSHI DEVELOPERS PVT LTD) FOR BEST PLOTTED DEVELOPERS OF THE YEAR
MR. H RAJU GOWDA
(ECOPLANET ELEVATORS & ESCALATORS PVT LTD) FOR SAFEST, ADVANCED, AND INNOVATIVE ELEVATORS IN INDIA
DR VIDYA BANDARU & DR SRI HARSHA
(EPIONE PAIN MANAGEMENT & REGENERATIVE CENTER) FOR PAIN MANAGEMENT & REGENERATIVE CENTER IN BANGALORE
SATVIK KAMATH & SHLOKA KAMATH
(THE ORIGINAL ABHARAN UDUPI) FOR THE CATEGORY OF BRIDAL JEWELLERY
IMTAYAZ SAGAR AND NANDEESH
(PHONORANGE PRIVATE LIMITED) FOR THE CATEGORY OF MOBILE RETAIL IN KARNATAKA
MANIKANTHA M VIBHUTI
(SHREE VIKRAMADITYA WELLNESS MARKETING INDIA PVT LTD) FOR AYURVEDIC WELLNESS AND HEALTH CARE
CHULHACHAUKI DA DHABA PRIVATE LIMITED
(CHULHA CHAUKI DA DHABA PRIVATE LIMITED) FOR THE BEST DHABA THEMED RESTAURANT IN BANGALORE
SANDEEP GOWDA
(SRI KALABHYRAVESHWARA GRANITES & MARBLES) FOR BEST GRANITES, & MARBLES
ARUN G
VELS JOLLYWOOD
Bidadi, Bengaluru
(VELS JOLLYWOOD STUDIOS & ADVENTURE, BIDADI, BANGALORE SOUTH) FOR ENTERTAINMENT ZONE - AMUSEMENT PARK & GETAWAY RESORTS
GAJENDRA SR
(SAI SHISHIR TOURS) FOR BEST PILGRIMAGE TOUR OPERATOR
MR. J R SHASHI KUMAR & G M SATHISHA & SUNIL KUMAR A
(SILICON FARMS & VILAS) FOR FARM LAND DEVELOPERS
DR MANJUNATH S
FOR PATIENTS CHOICE AWARD- PEOPLE'S DOCTOR
YOGESH DEEPU
(SRINIDHI HOLIDAYS) FOR THE CATEGORY OF HOLIDAY TOURS & PACKAGES
GIRISH B R
(PEEPAL ADS - TO REACH PEOPLE) FOR AGENCY PARTNER
MRS. LAKSHMI DEVI C
(VARNAM SILKS) FOR THE CATEGORY OF KANCHIPURAM SILKS SAREES AND MATERIALS
SADDU DADED
(BENGALURU CINE CREATIONS) FOR THE CATEGORY OF CINEMATOGRAPHY VIDEO EDITING & WEDDING PHOTOGRAPH
MR. HANAMANT BILKAR
(BILKAR TECHNOLOGY) FOR CATEGORY OF LEADING EV VEHICLE COMPANY IN KARNATAKA
BENSON K MATHEW
(MKB DEVELOPERS & PROMOTERS) FOR BEST REALESTATE BUSINESSMEN
DR. BRO. TITUS ANTO
(ST. FRANCIS COLLEGE – KORAMANGALA) FOR THE CATEGORY OF QUALITY EDUCATION COLLEGE IN BANGALORE
DR. NARENDRA S
(DR. NARENDRA S MBBS MS MCH SR) FOR THE CATEGORY OF SURGEON IN UROLOGY AND KIDNEY TRANSPLANT
TEAM SEA GROUP
(SEA GROUP OF INSTITUTIONS) FOR THE CATEGORY OF BEST ENGINEERING COLLEGE IN BANGALORE
KIRAN KUMAR REDDY
(TKR FOUNDATION) FOR THE CATEGORY OF SOCIAL WORK
MS. AMRITHA VIJAY TATA
(PRAJA TV) FOR THE CATEGORY OF ENTERTAINMENT PRODUCTION
DR KHAJA JAVED KHAN
(ALGOS MULTISPECIALITY PAIN CLINIC) FOR THE CATEGORY OF MULTISPECIALITY PAIN CLINIC
MANORANJAN
(SHREE RAM MEDIA SOLUTIONS) FOR AGENCY PARTNER
SUMANTH B S
(SAMBRAMA MULTI MEDIA) FOR AGENCY PARTNER

GETTY IMAGES

Why Arundhati is 'okay clapping for others' until her time comes

The 28-year-old found a way of contributing during India's World Cup triumph despite not making the XI — her teammates valued her impact on squad morale. She knows she has to start afresh after slipping down the pace-bowling pecking order. But having learnt the lessons of a hard life, she has the wherewithal to deal with setbacks and seize the next opportunity

Anirudh Velamuri
HYDERABAD

Enter Arundhati Reddy's house and you don't get the sense that it is the residence of a seasoned cricketer, let alone one who was a part of the victorious Indian team in the recent Women's ODI World Cup.

The large, breezy rooms – and even the detailed interior work, done to her taste – appear quite 'normal' until your eyes fall on a photo frame under her television, featuring Arundhati receiving her T20I cap from Mithali Raj.

"She doesn't want anything on display," Arundhati's mother Bhagya tells *The Hindu*. "She said, 'Amma, I'm playing because it is my thing, I enjoy it. I don't want to put on a show.' I requested her a few times, but it was a solid no."

Brick by brick

Her daughter's haul of medals and trophies adorns her bedroom walls instead, as a nod to the fulfilment of sporting dreams she could never realise. A former State-level volleyball player, Bhagya, a single parent, dedicated her life to building Arundhati the cricketer, brick by brick.

Arundhati bears the lessons of a hard life. She is happy to fly under the radar and let her craft speak for itself.

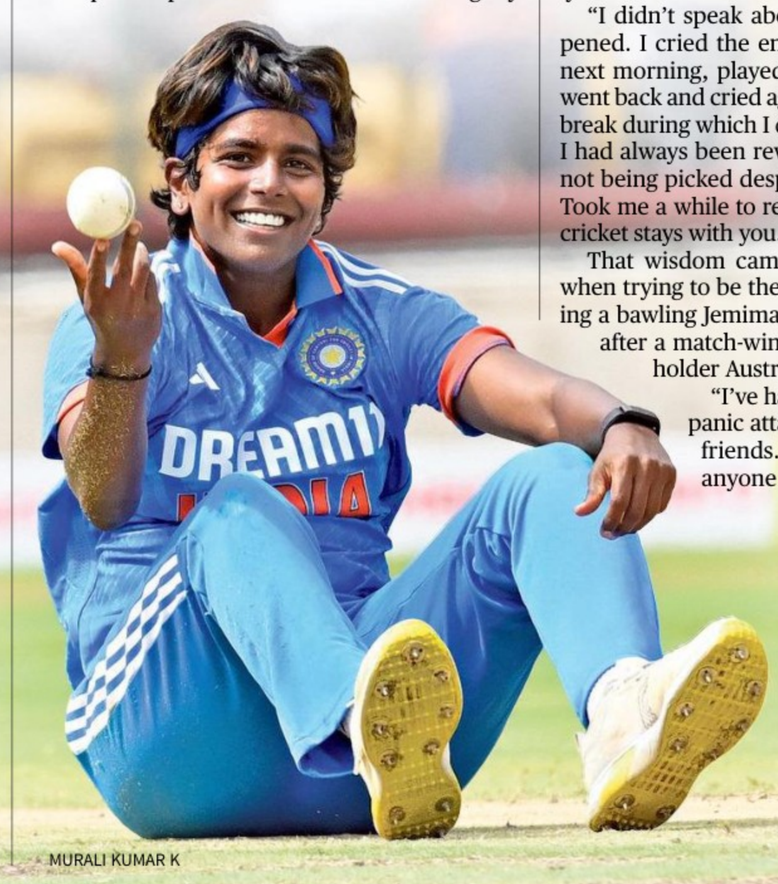
Used primarily as a substitute fielder in the World Cup, Arundhati, anticlimactically, found herself cheering from the sidelines and running drinks instead.

Renuka Singh emerged as the pace spearhead after Jhulan Goswami's retirement; her efficacy in the PowerPlay made her a sure starter when fit. A young Kranti Gaud, with her penchant for speed and fearlessness to attack, found herself among wickets against quality opponents in the run-up to the World Cup. Arundhati dropped down the pecking order despite being a mean swing bowler and a handy bat. Her oscillating economy-rate didn't help her cause either.

> I felt like this World Cup wasn't just about me. Even if I wasn't feeling my best, I had to put on a smile because I didn't want any negativity rubbing off on those around me

But when India clinched the title, the contingent waxed eloquent about Arundhati's impact on the team's morale.

"When you're not playing, it is difficult," she says. "You're constantly waiting for a chance. But I felt like this World Cup wasn't just about me. I'm a private person. Even if I wasn't feeling my best, I had to put on a smile and head to training because I didn't want any negativity rubbing off on those around me. Until my time comes, I'm okay clapping for others."



MURALI KUMAR K

This situation tragically mirrored what her life was like in early 2025. She was dropped despite a stellar haul (four for 26) in the third ODI against Australia at Perth late last year and an individually decent T20 World Cup before that.

"I didn't speak about it when the drop happened. I cried the entire night, showed up the next morning, played a match wherever I was, went back and cried again. There was a three-day break during which I didn't step out of the room. I had always been rewarded for doing well, but not being picked despite a good run was a first. Took me a while to realise that, in the end, only cricket stays with you."

That wisdom came in handy for Arundhati when trying to be there for her friends, something a bawling Jemimah Rodrigues gushed about after a match-winning century to knock out holder Australia in the semifinals.

"I've had my share of anxiety and panic attacks. Jemi's one of my best friends. You wouldn't want to see anyone go through what she did. Credit to her for speaking in public. It'll help people know they are not alone in that experience."

Arundhati's maturity comes from the unwavering support of her mother and brother Rohit. For it was they who stood by her when she went through the grinding wheel of emotions before doing what many in India consider sacrilegious – quitting a well-set government job to pursue sports.

Taking a risk

"When I left Railways, many called me foolish. I was then close to being unsold in the first Women's Premier League auction, until Delhi Capitals picked me in the accelerated round. Maybe it was foolish. Maybe I was mad. But I'm really grateful that everything fell into place. Things could've gone either way. I could've looked like an idiot or a mastermind.

"Everybody was busy blaming me, but nobody realised that I left with plenty of doubts and uncertainty from my family as well, because I was the one who had to provide for my family financially. I knew I had a responsibility to pay the loans and whatnot. I didn't know where money would come from."

That decision-making process on a phone call with her family, in fact, played out in public in Bengaluru. "I didn't think it would be such an emotional call with my family, where I was crying my heart out. There's an auto stand outside the Shangri-La hotel. I hid behind one of the autos. I was there for around two hours, just sobbing and hoping that nobody would recognise me."

The pacer is the apple of her mother's eye, but come matchday and Arundhati doesn't want her mother anywhere near her. "I was still not sure whether to call her for the [World Cup] final or not because every time she had come in the WPL, we had lost in the finals."

For the World Cup though, Bhagya thought ahead and asked if she could be in attendance for a potentially historic moment. "The least I could do for my team was not calling mom [laughs], but when she asked, I didn't want to stop her."

There was a time in India's campaign when it looked like it would be denied the chance to fight for the trophy. Three gutting losses – to South Africa, Australia and England – left the host with several uncomfortable questions to contend with.

"It's good that the losses happened. When things aren't going well, it tests your character. We came together a lot more as a team, because we knew we had no other choice.

"When we stepped into the D.Y. Patil Stadium, I remember Vijay Patil sir telling us, 'You've come at the right time. You will not be let down here'. I think it's now most players' favourite ground by a mile."

Weeks have passed, and Arundhati has just started letting loose and soaking in the victory. Celebrations on the night of the win saw her break her sugar abstinence. Gulab jamuns and ice creams were savoured in generous amounts. But the following day, she was back to her routine.

Just the beginning

Arundhati is aware that this is just the beginning, and she will have to get going from zero again, starting with WPL-4, where she will turn out for Royal Challengers Bengaluru after the franchise's winning bid of ₹75 lakh in Thursday's auction. She had been earlier released by Delhi Capitals.

With multiple WPL finals played, the world crown won, and having forced her way back into national reckoning, Arundhati now welcomes every positive, however big or small, with open arms while knowing that the hurdles along the way are just that – hurdles and not the end of the world.

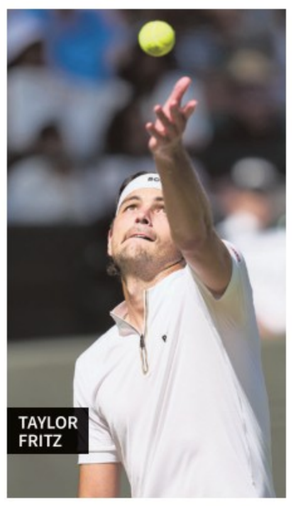
"If I could meet my younger self, I would say, 'You did well'. The journey wasn't very easy. But I wouldn't want it any other way."

> I've had my share of anxiety and panic attacks. Jemi's one of my best friends... Credit to her for speaking in public. It'll help people know they are not alone in that experience

GAME THEORY

The ATP Tour's service leaders: 2025

We look at the men's tennis players who have served the most aces (top 20) and those who have won the highest percentage of their service games (top 10) this season


TAYLOR FRITZ

REILLY OPELKA

FELIX AUGER-ALIASSIME

JANNIK SINNER

MOST ACES

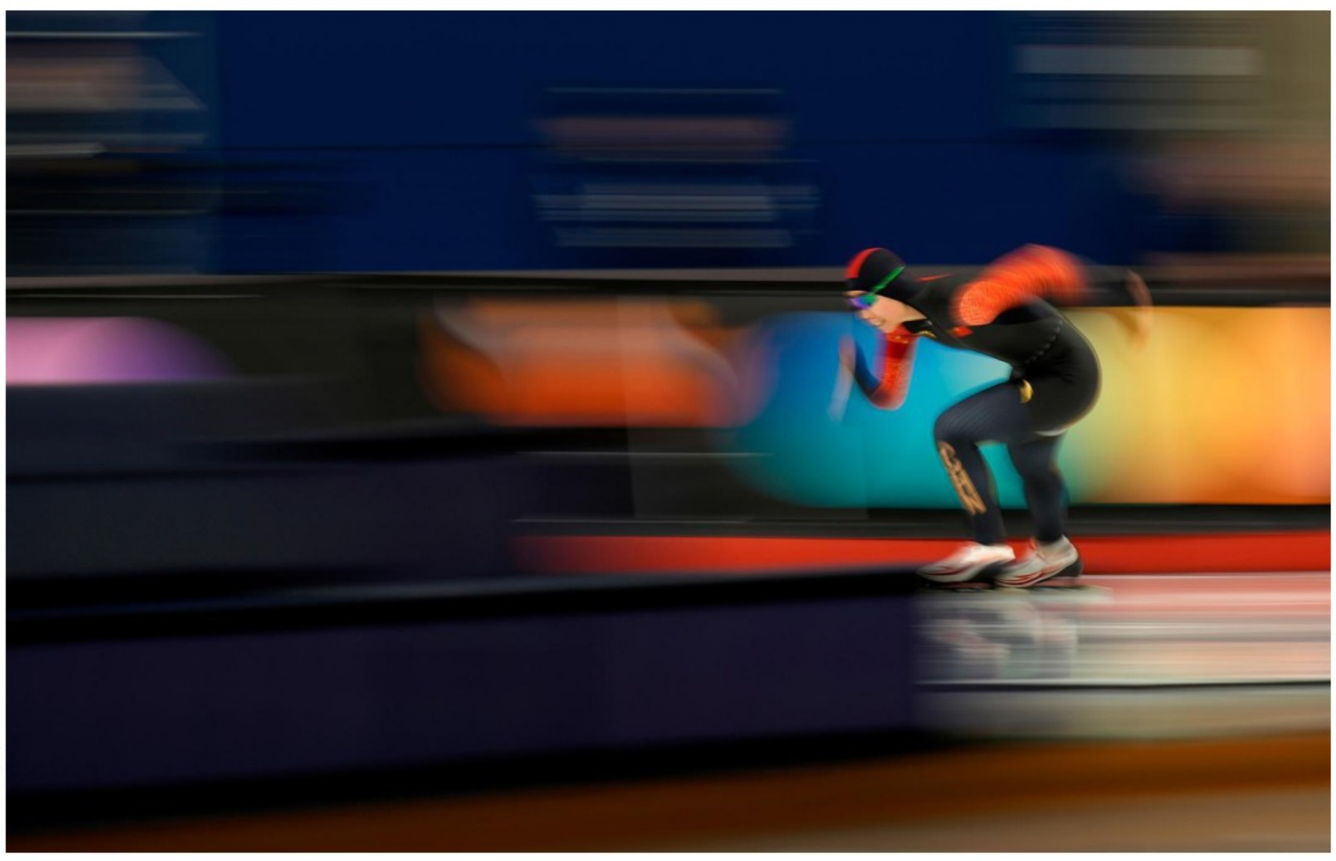
Player	Aces	Matches
Taylor Fritz	867	74
Reilly Opelka	790	49
Felix Auger-Aliassime	783	74
Jakub Mensik	679	50
Alexander Bublik	674	58
Ben Shelton	607	64
Giovanni Mpetshi Perricard	596	44
Alexander Zverev	577	80
Arthur Rinderknech	540	54
Daniil Medvedev	534	64
Brandon Nakashima	530	61
Jiri Lehecka	486	60
Andrey Rublev	478	59
Carlos Alcaraz	463	80
Tallon Griekspoor	456	53
Gabriel Diallo	440	50
Quentin Halys	413	36
Novak Djokovic	413	50
Jannik Sinner	405	64
Karen Khachanov	391	56

BEST SERVICE GAME WIN%

Player	Service games won	Service game win%
Jannik Sinner	713	92.00%
Taylor Fritz	882	89.18%
Giovanni Mpetshi Perricard	508	88.97%
Novak Djokovic	595	88.67%
Reilly Opelka	562	88.50%
Carlos Alcaraz	893	87.63%
Ben Shelton	726	87.26%
Alexander Zverev	835	86.53%
Alexander Bublik	623	86.17%
Felix Auger-Aliassime	819	85.85%

SOURCE: ATP TOUR

PICTURE THIS



GETTY IMAGES

Frozen quick

This photograph captures a blur of action from last weekend's ISU World Cup Speed Skating at the Calgary Olympic Oval in Canada.

Competitive speed skating can be classified into long track, short track and marathon, with various races being run in these categories.

The World Cup, which has been around since the 1980s, is a series of competitions — skaters earn points at each event, and the ones with the most points, over each given distance, at the end of the series are declared champions.

Speed skating's roots can be traced back to the North of Europe over a millennium ago, when the natives attached bones to their shoes to skate on frozen water bodies. Records suggest that it was more an activity of pleasure and sport than a mode of travel. An international federation was formed as early as 1892, with the winter sport enjoying great popularity in the Netherlands, Norway and South Korea.

Speed skates differ from those used in ice hockey and figure skating. They cut off at the ankle, more like a shoe than a boot, allowing for greater ankle compression.

Safe Connect feature on KSP app helps 150 people in distress

It has gained significant traction, with 2.3 million active users across the city: Joint Commissioner of Police (Administration)

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Illustration: SEBASTIAN FRANCIS

The Command-and-Control Centre has handled nearly 150 distress calls through the Bengaluru Safe City Project's Safe Connect feature – integrated into the existing KSP app – since its launch on December 31, 2024.

They have ensured rapid police intervention and enhanced public safety, said the police.

In one incident, a homemaker travelling alone in a cab to the airport used the video call option on the Safe Connect feature after feeling unsafe due to the driver's erratic driving. Police were able to track her live location in real time and quickly dispatch help.

In another instance, a college student was walking home late at night and found some people stalking her. She used the feature to initiate a video call during a confrontation. The police reached the spot in time. The app has also aided in crowd safety, officials said. A group of friends attending a public event used the Safe Connect feature to report suspicious activity. By sharing live video and location, they helped police apprehend a person. Joint Commissioner of Police (Adminstration) Kuldeep Kumar Jain said that the Safe Connect platform has 2.3 million active users across the city.

The feature enables two-way audio and video communication, allowing users to report emergencies with ease. Even in situations where a caller cannot speak, the app's interface allows communication through gestures during video calls. The 24/7 Command-and-Control Center is equipped to respond instantly to calls, track live locations, and mobilise emergency teams. Strong cybersecurity measures are in place to ensure the privacy and security of user data, said the police. The police personnel operating the system undergo specialised training to handle live video interactions professionally and empathetically.

Under the revised instructions, the DCPs are now responsible for the proper functioning, staffing and maintenance of each outpost. They must ensure duty registers are updated, complaints are recorded, and beat staff as well as Hoysala patrol teams conduct regular checks.

Need to revamp help desk

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As many as 60 help desks set up across Bengaluru under the Nirbhaya scheme to support women and children in distress have turned largely defunct, with very few approaching them.

Shortage

There are no female police personnel at these kiosks and a severe shortage of women staff has forced the police to deploy male personnel at many centres, though guidelines issued in 2023 had mandated the presence of women staff.

Now, the Police Commissioner has issued strict instructions directing that all help desks must mandatorily be manned by women staff. Jurisdictional Deputy Commissioners of Police (DCPs) have also been told to regularly monitor them.

Fresh orders have now been issued to all DCPs in this regard.

These outposts, known as Neravu Mahila Kendras, located near schools, colleges, bus stands, railway stations, busy junctions and other high-footfall areas, were created to provide immediate support to women facing distress or violence.

Inspector among four booked in rehabilitation centre death case

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Madanayakanahalli police have booked an inspector attached to the Vivek Nagar police station and three other police officers after a 22-year-old man, whom they had enrolled in a rehabilitation centre in Adakamaranahalli, died under suspicious circumstances.

Case transferred to CID

The case, registered as murder, has been transferred to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID).

The death occurred on Wednesday, and the deceased, Darshan P.G., was admitted to the Unity Social Service rehabilitation centre on November 16.

Initially, the police registered an unnatural death report based on a complaint by Darshan's mother. However, she grew suspicious after noticing beating marks on her son's body. C.K. Baba, Superintendent of Police, Bengaluru Rural, told *The Hindu* that the post-mortem report revealed Darshan had sustained multiple injuries.

Following this, the mother filed another complaint naming the Vivek Nagar police and the rehabilitation centre.

According to the complaint, Darshan was detained by the Vivek Nagar police on November 12 for allegedly creating public nuisance by fighting with neighbours while under the influence of alcohol. However, no complaint exists in the records of the Vivek Nagar police station.

"When I went to bail him out on November 15, the police said they would send my son to jail, so I requested them to send him to a rehabilitation centre instead as he was addicted to alcohol. The police shifted Darshan to the rehabilitation centre and took ₹7,500 for admission," the mother stated in her complaint.

She said she called the centre every day, and the authorities repeatedly assured her that her son doing fine, but never allowed her to speak directly. On November 26, the rehabilitation centre informed her that Darshan had died and was taken to the Nelamangala Government Hospital. She told the police that the authorities claimed he had died due to respiratory problems. However, marks on the body raised suspicion.

The Madanayakanahalli police subsequently included the Vivek Nagar inspector and staff in the case, as Darshan had been transferred to the rehabilitation centre directly from their 'custody',

The case registered at Madanayakanahalli names the inspector as accused No. 1.

However, Vivek Nagar police had neither booked any case against Darshan nor officially held him in custody. Therefore, technically, the case does not qualify as a 'custodial death', said police sources. The CID will now investigate the alleged illegal detention and sequence of events.

Pending traffic fine: ₹7.02 crore collected in eight days

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government's recent decision to offer a 50% concession on pending traffic fines has prompted a massive response from motorists, with the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) collecting ₹7.02 crore in fines and settling 2.47 lakh cases in eight days.

According to a government order issued on November 20, a one-time discount was announced for all unpaid cases recorded under the Police Department's traffic e-challan system. The concession came into effect on November 21.

During the window from November 21 to November 28, traffic violators rushed to clear their dues through various payment modes, generating ₹7.02 crore in total.

Woman and her friend arrested on charge of murdering her husband

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Madanayakanahalli police have arrested a 28-year-old woman and her 20-year-old male friend for allegedly murdering her husband and attempting to cover it up by burning the body. The accused have been identified as Sharanamma and Veerabhadra. The deceased has been identified as Suresh, 30, who had been married to Sharanamma for four years. Suresh's body was found half-burnt near Madanayakanahalli on November 20.

Police sources said Sharanamma was in an extramarital affair with Veerabhadra. She hatched a plan with him to eliminate her husband and executed it.

Large-scale GST violations amounting to ₹100 cr. in suppressed turnover found

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Enforcement Wing (South Zone) of the Commercial Taxes Department has carried out a massive tax enforcement drive across multiple evasion-prone sectors in Bengaluru, uncovering large-scale GST violations amounting to nearly ₹100 crore in suppressed turnover.

The coordinated inspections targeted sectors such as electronics, automobile spares, gift articles, dry fruits and confectionery, paints and hardware, iron and steel, and cement. The operations were concentrated in Bengaluru's busy commercial hubs including Chickpet, S.P. Road, Avenue Road, J.C. Road, B.V.K. Iyengar Road, and surrounding areas.

Initial findings revealed that several traders were sourcing goods—especially electronics, auto parts, gift items, and dry fruits—from NCR/Delhi without valid tax invoices, and were transporting quantities far exceeding those declared.

Officials said this allowed local traders to sell goods without issuing invoices, resulting in systematic suppression of turnover and GST evasion. In the iron and steel, hardware, and cement sectors, the officials detected widespread issuance of invoices without corresponding supply of goods. Investigators found that goods were diverted directly to end-consumers, particularly those constructing individual houses, while fictitious invoices were issued to registered firms to facilitate illegal Input Tax Credit (ITC) claims.

Strict action has been initiated against both invoice issuers and beneficiaries. The drive also found several business entities operating without mandatory GST registration despite crossing the ₹40-lakh turnover threshold. Such businesses have been warned to obtain registration immediately to avoid penalties.

The department has stepped up monitoring the movement of goods through Bengaluru's railway stations. Nearly 1,000 bags of gutkha and pan masala were seized at Yeshwantpur Railway Station for being transported without valid documentation or proof of GST payment. High-risk commodities like arecanut, pan masala, scrap, and dry fruits remain under strict vigil, the department said.

Customs officers seize 67 kg of hydroponic ganja in 10 days

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The customs officers at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) have seized more than 67 kg of hydroponic ganja in multiple operations over the past 10 days, exposing repeated attempts to smuggle contraband to the city.

The seizures, all made at Terminal 2 between November 17 and November 27, involved passengers arriving primarily from Bangkok, Thailand, with one case linked to Hat Yai, Thailand. All passengers were detained under the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985.

The first major seizure unfolded on November 17, when officers intercepted a passenger from Bangkok carrying 3.83 kg of hydroponic ganja valued at ₹1.34 crore. This was followed by a daily pattern of interceptions, with some cases involving more than one passenger.

Four separate cases of hydroponic ganja smuggling intercepted at the Terminal 2 on November 18 alone. The quantities ranged from 4 kg to nearly 8 kg per passenger, amounting to over 23 kg in a single day. Another passenger who arrived from Hat Yai was caught with 4 kg, valued at ₹1.4 crore.

On November 19, the customs intercepted three more passengers carrying a combined 13.36 kg of the contraband. The trend continued through the week, with a seizure of 6.43 kg on November 22 and 5 kg on November 26. The largest single-day haul occurred on November 27, when three passengers from Bangkok were caught carrying 15.72 kg of hydroponic ganja worth ₹5.5 crore.

Growing customer base

The officials believe that the quantity and frequency of seizures indicate the growing customer base in the city. While narcotics dominated enforcement action over the past ten days, the Bengaluru Customs also reported two major wildlife trafficking attempts: the seizure of five wild animals smuggled from Bangkok and 280 wildlife species smuggled via a courier consignment from Vietnam.

The customs officials have increased profiling, surveillance, and intelligence-based interceptions at the airport.

Timings
BENGALURU

SATURDAY, NOV. 29	
RISE 06:25	SET 17:51
RISE 13:12	SET 00:38
SUNDAY, NOV. 30	
RISE 06:25	SET 17:51
RISE 13:52	SET 01:31
MONDAY, DEC. 01	
RISE 06:26	SET 17:51
RISE 14:34	SET 02:24

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	28	22
Mysuru	27	17
Bengaluru	25	16

Bengaluru Today
22°C Intermittent spells of heavy to very heavy rain and thundershower with strong winds and moderate lightning to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
23°C The weather will be pleasant. Few spells of light to moderate rain and thundershower will occur.

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THE HINDU
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'ICDS helping more than 40 lakh women and children'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar launched Akka Pade vehicles during the golden jubilee celebrations of the Integrated Child Development Services at Palace Grounds in Bengaluru on Friday. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said that the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), a visionary scheme to eliminate mother-child mortality and malnutrition, was benefiting more than 40 lakh women and children through 69,922 anganwadis in the State.

He was speaking at an event to celebrate the golden jubilee of the scheme in Karnataka, organised by the Department of Women and Child Development, Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens.

'Highest honorarium'

"The first anganwadi in Karnataka was started at Hosahalli village in T. Narasipur taluk and operated in 33 taluks. Currently, 69,922 centres are functioning across the State," he said.

Terming the service of anganwadi workers and helpers 'a noble work', the Chief Minister pointed out that the Karnataka government provides them the highest honorarium in the country. "Although the ICDS is a Central government programme, the State government provides more funds. If ₹2,700 comes from the Centre, the State government provides ₹8,500," he said.

Mr. Siddaramaiah also added that the implementation of the Shakti and Gruhalakshmi schemes had led to increased women's participation in work. He said Karnataka is among the States that have effectively implemented the ICDS programme.

Noting that more than ₹1,04,00 crore has been spent on the guarantee schemes, he refuted the oft-repeated claim that there was any shortage of funds for development schemes. Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar praised the Grihalakshmi Multipurpose Cooperative Society and the Akka Pade scheme introduced by the Women and Child Development Department, terming it a continuation of the legacy of the Congress government which introduced legislations to ban child marriage and dowry.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi criticised that the guarantee schemes cannot be implemented. Today, we are directly depositing money into the accounts of 1.26 crore women. Under the leadership of Mr. Siddaramaiah, three of the five guarantee schemes have directly benefitted women," he said.

'Ensure ₹10L compensation reaches families of deceased workers'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka Safai Karmachari Commission Chairperson P. Raghu on Friday told authorities to ensure that families of deceased sanitation workers receive the mandated ₹10 lakh compensation, even as the issue of compassionate appointments remains pending at the government level.

He was interacting with pourakarmikas and sanitation workers at a grievance redressal meeting in the East Corporation. During the interaction, workers flagged long-standing issues such as lack of basic facilities, recruitment hurdles, delays in compensation, PF related concerns, biometric attendance glitches, salary arrears, and inadequate toilets and rest rooms. Mr. Raghu directed officials to initiate corrective measures immediately.

To address the grievances, Mr. Raghu instructed the corporation to construct and expand restrooms and toilets at all mustering points, clear all pending salary payments without delay and coordinate with the Social Welfare Department to issue validity certificates required for recruitment processes. He also encouraged workers to approach officers directly instead of relying on middlemen for official work.

₹6.50 cr. tax dues paid

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Mantri Mall paid ₹6.50 crore of its pending property tax on Friday, days after the mall was shut down on November 20 for accumulating arrears amounting to ₹30 crore. The payment was made in compliance with the High Court's order, said Central Corporation Commissioner Rajendra Cholan P.

Mr. Cholan received the pending taxes during his visit to the corporation's property tax verification centre at Chickpet.

Habitual offender held for stealing gold rings

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Police have arrested a 36-year-old habitual offender who allegedly stole gold rings from jewellery shops by swapping them with fake ones.

The arrest has led to the recovery of more than 22 gm of gold and solved three theft cases filed in different parts of the city.

The accused has been identified as Rajesh B.G., a resident of Kempegowdanagar in Byadarahalli. He was arrested on November 17, and a Bengaluru court has remanded him in judicial custody.

The complaint was lodged by Babu Lal, the proprietor of Sri Ganesh Gold Palace in Bhuvaneshwarinagar, on November 4. He stated that on November 3, an unidentified man visited his shop around 8 p.m. saying he wanted to see gold rings. While the staff were attending to another customer, the man removed a gold ring weighing 15.49 grams from the tray and placed a fake ring in its place and left the shop.

"The discrepancy was discovered later when the staff carried out routine checks. The missing ring was worth about ₹1.75 lakh," Mr. Lal told the police.

Following the complaint, the Jnana Bharati police registered a case and arrested Rajesh.

Rajesh is a habitual offender, who was arrested in 2024 in theft cases registered at the Kengeri and Govindarajanagar police stations, the police said.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Corrigendum-2 Tender notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/148/2025 dated 13.10.2025

Item of Work	Approx. value
Design, Customization, Implementation, Operations & Maintenance support of Integrated Project Management and information system (PMIS) for various projects under South Western Railway. (Tender Ref. No. PMIS-SWR-01)	Rs. 6,66,00,380

Date of Closing

Existing	Revised
10/12/2025 (15:00 Hrs.)	30/12/2025 (15:00Hrs)

For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in

Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction/Works/ Bengaluru Cantonment

PUB/686/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26

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South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Bank of India BOI

Malleswaram Branch: No.112, margosa road malleswaram 560003

लॉकर करिए पर लेने के लिए सूचना NOTICE TO LOCKER HIRERS

Following Locker holders are hereby notified that their respective lockers will be broken open on **13-12-2025** as per the laid down procedure of the Bank, if they fail to pay the rental dues by **12-12-2025.**

Account Number	Locker Hirer Name	Locker No	Arrears (Rs.)
840110110*18654	SANJAY L JOSHI	B-000398	RS.13,216.00

स्थान /Place : बेंगलुरु / Bangalore
दिनांक/Date : 28.11.2025

Branch Manager
Bank of India Malleswaram Branch

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, B SAVITHRI dependent of Balaka R Prasad R/at: H. No. 21, Kodagalahatti, Hosahalli, Hunasamaranahalli, Bangalore-562157 have changed my name from B Savithri to Balaka Savitri vide affidavit dated 24/11/2025 sworn before Notary H.Sridhar Rao Bangalore.

I, HITHERTO known as S Abhinav s/o V Sunder Raj, Resident of No 192, 1st Floor, 3rd Cross, 2nd Main, Cambridge Layout, Ulsoor, H.A.L 2nd Stage, Bangalore North, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560 008, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Bhairav Sunder vide dated–26.11.2025. sworn before Notary Gangaraju.B.N. Bengaluru.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, B VYKUNTA Rao dependent of Balaka R Prasad R/at: H. No. 21, Kodagalahatti, Hosahalli, Hunasamaranahalli, Bangalore-562157 have changed my name from B Vykunta Rao to Balaka Vykunta Rao vide affidavit dated 24/11/2025 sworn before Notary H.Sridhar Rao Bangalore.

I, AMBARISH G M S/o. G K MUNISHAMI, Residing at H Gollahalli, Kolar, Karnataka-563131, have changed the name of my Minor Son BHUVITH KRISHNA G A, aged 6 years and he shall hereafter be known as G A DHANVIK MURTHY by virtue of Affidavit.

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Vacancy Circular
No. 2(15)/2025-ABCD
Government of India
Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY),
Electronics Niketan, 6-CGO Complex, New Delhi-110003

Subject: Calling Applications for filling up the post of Director General, Education and Research Network of India (ERNET India), an autonomous body under MeitY.

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology proposes to fill up the post of Director General, Education and Research Network of India (ERNET India), an autonomous body under MeitY, in the pay scale of Level 15 in the Pay Matrix (Rs. 1,82,200 - Rs. 2,24,100), through Direct Recruitment/ Deputation (including short term contract) modes. Last date for receipt of application would be the day falling after 45 days from the date of publication of the advertisement in the Employment News.

2. Detailed advertisement and application proforma can be obtained from websites of MeitY (www.meity.gov.in); ERNET (www.ernet.in); Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) (www.persmin.gov.in); and National Career Services Portal (www.ncs.gov.in).

cbc06101/11/0011/2526

National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL)
(Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Govt. of India)
BHARATMALA ROAD TO PROSPERITY

HQ: 1st & 2nd Floor, Tower-A, World Trade Centre, Nauroji Nagar, New Delhi – 110029
Website: www.nhidcl.com, Email: recruitment.nhidcl@nhidcl.com

RECRUITMENT NOTICE NO. 02/2025

NHIDCL invites **ONLINE applications** from eligible candidates for the following posts at **E2 Grade (IDA pattern)** on **Direct Recruitment** basis:

S. No.	Post (Cadre)	No. of Posts	IDA Pay Scale	Upper Age	Essential Qualification
1	Deputy Manager (HR & Admn)	03 (UR-03	₹ 50,000–3%–1,60,000	Not exceeding 34 years	• Bachelor's Degree, and • Cleared **Civil Services Mains – Written Exam 2024** and appeared for **Personality Test (Interview)**
2	Deputy Manager (Land Acquisition)	03 (UR-03	₹ 50,000–3%–1,60,000	Not exceeding 34 years	• Bachelor's Degree, and • Cleared **Civil Services Mains – Written Exam 2024** and appeared for **Personality Test (Interview)**

Relaxations in age limit: As per applicable Rules.

Eligibility: Bachelor's Degree, and must have cleared Civil Services Mains – Written Exam 2024 and appeared for Personality Test (Interview).

Selection: Based on Percentile Score in UPSC Civil Services Examination Mains 2024 (Pratibha Setu).

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Opening date of Online Application : 01.12.2025 (1000 Hrs)**
- **Closing date of online application : 30.12.2025 (1700 Hrs)**

For detailed advertisement including reservations, job responsibilities, benefits, and general instructions, visit www.nhidcl.com or refer to the full Recruitment Notice published in Employment News dated 29th Nov., 2025.

cbc37112/12/0005/2526

General Manager (Recruitment)

BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE, BUILDING THE NATION

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited
(A Joint Venture of GoI & GoK)
E-mail: contactus@bmrc.co.in, Website: www.bmrc.co.in

Date: 28th November 2025

ADDENDUM / CORRIGENDUM – 05
EXTENSION OF TENDER SUBMISSION DATE

Ref: (1) RFP No. BMRCL/PD/ADVT/PIERS & PORTALS/2025-26/06 dated 17.09.2025
(2) Writ Petition No. 32551/2025 before the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) had floated a tender on the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP) on 17.09.2025 for the Grant of Concession to Design, Develop, Operate, and Maintain Advertisement Rights on Selected Piers & Portals of the Purple, Green, Yellow, Pink, and Blue Corridors of the BMRCL network, vide reference cited above.

This tender was challenged before the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka in W.P. No. 32551/2025. The matter came up for hearing on 30th October 2025 and 26th November 2025. On 30th October 2025, the Hon'ble High Court had stayed the further operation of the tender. Upon further hearing on 26th November 2025, the Hon'ble High Court recorded the grievances/issues of the Petitioners in relation to Clause 5.11, 6.6 and Table 12 (Clause 8.5) of the tender and directed as follows:

"Any tenderer who satisfies the requirements of participating in the tender may be permitted to participate in the tender, subject to the decision of this Court in respect of the aforesaid issues.

Additional objections, if any, to be filed by the respondents **by 01.12.2025.** Relist **on 04.12.2025 at 4.00 p.m.**

Subject to the above, the respondents are permitted to issue a fresh schedule for submission of bids, etc.

However, respondents are restrained from finalising the tender until the above matter is heard and decision is rendered."

In view of the above directions of the Hon'ble High Court, the fresh schedule for submission and opening of bids for the tender mentioned at reference (1) has been extended as under subject to the conditions mentioned as above:-

Particulars	Existing Date & Time	Revised Date & Time
Last date & time for submission of tender	13.11.2025, 17:29 hrs	**08.12.2025, 17:29 hrs**
Date & time of opening of tender	17.11.2025, 11:00 hrs	**10.12.2025, 11:00 hrs**

Pre-bid meeting is scheduled on: **05.12.2025 at 15.00 hours at BMRCL Conference Hall, 3rd floor, BMTC Complex, KH Road, Shantinagar, Bengaluru 560027**

Since the KPP Portal was automatically locked for issuing corrigenda after the last permissible date of 13.11.2025, and in compliance with the directions of the Hon'ble Court, the same tender document (without any modification whatsoever) has been reissued on the KPP Portal to allow submission of bids up to 08.12.2025. Any interested bidder can participate in the tender notwithstanding the eligibility under Clause 5.11 and 6.6 of the Tender document, the eligibility is subject to the outcome of the writ petition.

All bids submitted pursuant to the earlier notification stand cancelled, and bidders are required to resubmit their bids in response to this corrigendum issued. All other terms and conditions of the tender remain unchanged.

For bid submissions visit e-procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 29.11.2025 onwards.** The details can also be accessed from BMRCL website **www.bmrc.co.in**

Sd/- Director (Finance)

बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Bank of India BOI

Bangalore Main Branch: KG Road No.11, Majestic
General Operations Department,Bengaluru Zonal Office
PH :080 – 22959418
Email: Bengaluru.GOD@bankofindia.co.in

लॉकर करिए पर लेने के लिए सूचना NOTICE TO LOCKER HIRERS

Following Locker holders are hereby notified that their respective lockers will be broken open on **12-12-2025** as per the laid down procedure of the Bank, if they fail to pay the rental dues by **11-12-2025.**

Account Number	Locker Hirer Name	Locker No	Arrears (Rs.)
84001010*008190	Shankar N Kaku	D-000682	Rs. 21,000.00
84091010*011818	M Sanyasi Rao	B-000596	Rs. 10,000.00
84001010*010736	P K Devanathan	D-000616	Rs. 16,800.00
8400141100*0090	Veeraraghavan Jayashree	F-001117	Rs. 26,400.00
84001010*022646	Archana R Shah	D-001037	Rs. 16,800.00
84003010*080089	Brijesh Thawar	B-000971	Rs. 11,200.00
84001011*012546	Shamala N	A-000824	Rs. 7,500.00
84001011*011701	Rajkumar Sharma	B-000560	Rs. 10,000.00
840010100*22398	N Shekar	B-000384	Rs. 10,000.00
8400101*0022398	N Shekar	B-000684	Rs. 15,000.00
84001010*022647	Viral R Shah	D-001033	Rs. 10,000.00
84001011*008361	M Sanjay Kumar	D-000643	Rs. 12,000.00
840010100*22646	Dharmil R Shah	G-000458	Rs. 36,400.00
84001010010*960	S R Navali Hiremath	F-001127	Rs. 26,000.00

स्थान /Place : बेंगलुरु / Bangalore
दिनांक/Date : 28.11.2025

Branch Manager
Bank of India Bangalore Main

FORM NO. 14
[See Regulation 33(2)]
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE, DEPTT. OF FINANCIAL SERVICES
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNBAL - 2, BENGALURU
4th Floor, Telephone House, Rajbhavan Road, Bengaluru - 560 001.

RC No. 247 / 2019

PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK
Ramanagara Branch, No. 1607/08, B.M. Road, Vivekananda Nagar, Bengaluru - 562 159. ... Applicant Bank / Certificate Holder
Versus
M/s. F.K. Enterprises ... Certified Debtor(s) / Defendant(s)

DEMAND NOTICE

1. M/s. F.K. Enterprises
A Properietary Concern, Represented by its proprietor **Mr. Firoz Khan**
At No. 1301/1210, Troopline Road, Ramanagara - 562 159.
... Certified Debtor(s) / Defendant(s)

In view of the Recovery Certificate issued in **OA / 1000 / 2017** passed by the **Hon'ble Presiding Officer, DRT, Bangalore Dtd. 5th January 2019 an amount of Rs. 11,13,201/- (Rupees Eleven Lakh(s) Thirteen Thousand Two Hundred One Only)** is due against you along with interest and costs from date of filing of O.A.s till realization of the Recovery Certificate.

In addition to the sum aforesaid you will be liable to pay all charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and other process that may be taken for recovering the amount due.

You are hereby called upon to deposit the amount within 15 days of the receipt of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made as per rules.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, **on 28th Day of June, 2019.**

RECOVERY OFFICER - 1
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - 2
BENGALURU

Note : Attention is invited to Rule 16 of the Second Schedule of the Income Tax Act 1961 read with recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 which is reproduced below :

"Rule 16(1) where a notice has been served on a defaulter under Rule 2, the defaulter or his representative or his representative in interest shall not be competent to mortgage, charge, lease or otherwise deal with any property belonging to him except with the permission of the Debts Recovery Officer, nor shall any civil court issue any process against such property in execution of a decree for the payment of money.

(2) Where an attachment has been made under this schedule any private transfer or delivery of the property attached or of any interest therein and any payment to the defaulter of any debt, dividend or other monies contrary to such attachment, shall be void, as against all claims enforceable under the attachment.

(3) You are also liable to disclose your assets both movable and immovable to this Tribunal along with the Income Tax Returns of last 5 year.

SREENIDHI SOUHARDA SAHAKARI BANK NIYAMITHA
113, R. V. Road, V. V. Puram, Bangalore- 560 004
Phone: 080-25401160-161, 9606018413,
E-mail: sssbn3mrh@sreenidhibank.com

PUBLIC AUCTION SALE NOTICE
Sale of Immovable Property Mortgaged to Bank Under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.
(No 54 of 2002) -- SARFAESI ACT

(Sri.Muniraja.G)

Whereas **Sri.G.Muniraja, S/o.Gangappa, aged about 48 years, residing at No.66, Katha No.1187, 2nd Cross, 1st Block, Shanthi Nagar, Harohalli, Kolara-563101,** has borrowed monies from M/s.Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha, Marathahalli Branch, #95/3, Kote N.C.P.R Tower Building, Outer Ring Road, Opp. Jeevika Hospital, Doddanekkundi, Bangalore-560037 and he owe a sum of **Rs.33,61,315/-** (Rupees Thirty Three Lakh Sixty One Thousand Three Hundred and Fifteen) only with further interest **@14.50% as on 28/11/2025.**

Whereas the Authorised Officer of the Bank has issued notice under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and thereafter has taken possession of the property owned by **Sri.G.Muniraja, S/o.Gangappa, aged about 48 years, residing at No.66, Katha No.1187, 2nd Cross, 1st Block, Shanthi Nagar, Harohalli, Kolara-563101,** mortgaged to the Bank and has decided to sell the property, described in Schedule "A" herein below, on 'AS IS WHERE IS BASIS' under rules 8 & 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

DETAILS OF SALE:

Place of Auction: Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha, #113, R.V.Road, V.V. Puram, Bangalore-560004.

Date/Day & time of auction: 29.12.2025 (Monday) At 11:30 AM.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHEDULE PROPERTY:

All that piece and parcel of the immovable Property bearing New No.15/1/524/116, Old No.1187/969/66/67, Katha No.1187, Assessment Register No.188, Junjar No.969/66-67, presently comes under Jurisdiction of CMC Kolar, situated at Shanthinagar, Harohalli Village, Ward No.15, Kolara, Measuring East to West 45-0 feet and North to South 40-0 feet and totally in all measuring 1800 Sq.ft. along with building consist of Ground floor, First floor & Second floor and total Built up area 3700 Sq.ft and bounded on East By:- Remaining portion of the Site No.66 of Savitha's house, West By:-Ranganathachari Vacant site, North By:-Basavaraju Property and South By:-20 feet wide Road.

Reserve Price: Rs.1,08,00,000/- (Rupees One Crore Eight Lakhs) Only

Terms & Conditions of Auction:

(1) For participating in the auction, the intending bidders have to deposit 10% of reserve price of the property by Bankers cheque/Demand Draft favouring The Authorised Officer, Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha, Payable at Bangalore which is refundable, if the bid is not successful.

(2) The successful bidder shall deposit 25% of the bid amount immediately on the sale being knocked down in his favour and the balance within 15 days. Payment to be made only in the form of cash or bankers cheque/ DD drawn in favour of "The Authorised Officer, Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha".

(3) In case the successful bidder fails to deposit 25% of bid amount immediately on the sale being knocked down in his favour and the balance amount within 15 days, the entire deposit made by the bidder shall be forfeited by the Authorised Officer without any notice.

(4) The successful bidder would bear the charges/fees payable for conveyance such as Stamp duty, Registration fee etc., as applicable as per law.

(5) The Authorised officer will not be held responsible for any charge, lien, encumbrance, property tax or any other dues to the Govt. or anybody in respect of the property under sale.

(6) The Authorised Officer has the absolute right to accept or reject the bid or adjourn/ postpone the auction without assigning any reason therefore.

(7) The sale is subject to confirmation by the Bank.

(8) The auction of the property will be made as per the above order or at the discretion of the Authorised Officer.

(9) For inspection of property, the intending bidders may contact, Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha, Marathahalli Branch, #95/3, Kote N.C.P.R Tower Building, Outer Ring Road, Opp. Jeevika Hospital, Doddanekkundi, Bangalore – 560037 during the office hours or may contact at telephone No.**080 25401160/161/Mob: 9606018413.**

Date : 28.11.2025
Place : Bangalore

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha

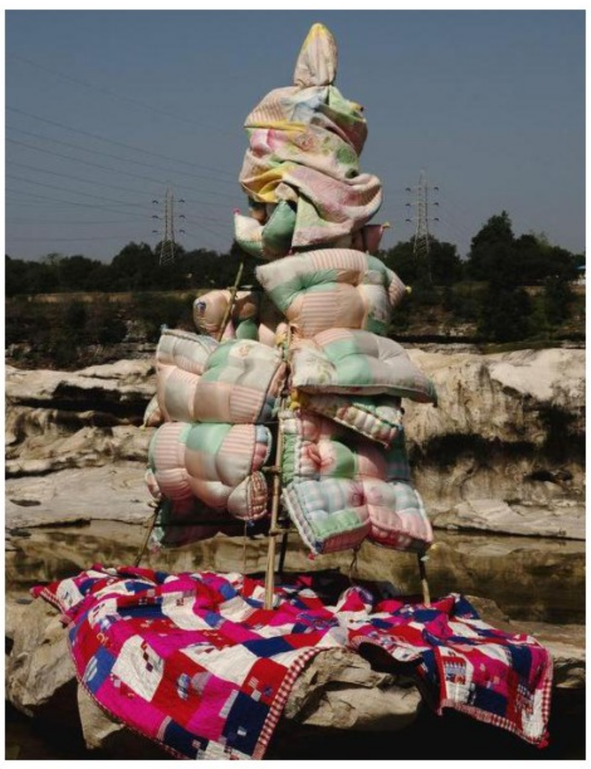
PROPERTYPLUS
HOMES AND REAL ESTATE NEWS
thehindu.com/features/homes-and-gardens
THE HINDU

COVER

Vinita Makhija

At home with Pero

At its recent showing in Mumbai, the beloved Delhi fashion label unveiled its debut home line



The collection originates from Pero's archival textiles and is divided into four parts: Eat, Sleep, Clean, and Live.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Home is usually a place, sometimes a feeling and in the case of Pero, almost a person. At the recent AD show in Mumbai, the beloved Delhi label unveiled its debut home line with a wink and a runway that drifted somewhere between gossamer dreamscape and gentle mischief.

Aneeth Arora, the elusive creative force behind the brand, staged a presentation that turned bedding into theatre. Models glided out wrapped in mattresses and quilts, their silhouettes pitched between surreal tableaux and DIY architecture. Styled by Nikhil D., they morphed into tents, compact condos and self-seated sofas. The team even strapped pillows into makeshift backpacks while guiding a handful of editors to our seats.

The specifics

The collection originates from Pero's archival textiles and is divided into four parts: Eat, Sleep, Clean, and Live. Longtime loyalists will recognise the delicate French embroidery, micro needlepoint roses, gossamer chanderi, lace and the softest cottons in pastel tones. While the showcase focused on curtains, mattresses, quilts and pillows, towels, robes, and perhaps even lingerie are expected to follow. The line will launch exclusively at Nilaya Anthology in Mumbai.

This debut has been hiding in plain sight. "If one asks how long it has been under development, I would say 16 years because we were making these textiles from the beginning." After the pandemic, the team sifted through 8 to 10 early seasons to build the home ranges. In fashion, Arora explains, if a client sees the continuation of a print or technique, they consider it old. "But that's not the case at home, we seek the familiar." Bringing back crowd favourites from her archives felt logical, even overdue. However, each piece is a one-off, the archival textiles are limited and the ideas many.

The design language, Arora says, "is inspired by what we see locally". From overloaded rickshaws in Old Delhi to stacked bundles on Mumbai streets, Pero has always stretched everyday poetry into clothing.

Arora herself stayed behind the curtain. Known to avoid taking a bow (Margiela is a big reference), she has almost no recent photographs in circulation, and the brand quietly removed her name from its title a few years ago. "Everything I do is inspired by crafts," she says over the phone two days before the launch. "In craft clusters, a piece rarely belongs to one person. I look at Pero as a collective." The philosophy may be personal but it is also pragmatic. As Indian labels mature, questions of legacy, signature and continuity beyond the founder gain weight. While we celebrate designers who now more than ever before have been appearing at global fashion weeks, Pero has been a steady fixture at international trade shows for 16 years. "From the very beginning, Pero was created for a global audience," says Arora. Today the brand is present in 350 stores across 30 countries and internally supports more than 300 families. "To the families that rely on Pero, I owe the commercial success and continuation of the brand."

By stepping away from the spotlight, the label has built a loyal audience protected from personality cults and trend whiplash. "The first five years, we were introducing the international audience to our crafts and techniques, this is *jamdani*, this is *bandhani*. Now they arrive with other buyers and rattle off craft names with ease."

There have been lessons, too. "When we did *ajrakh*, we stuck to the most traditional colours and motifs, even for our international offerings. Despite its absolute original rendition, it was received as ethnic, and we had to reconfigure how we use craft." At some point, Arora hopes to experiment with *dabka*, *mukaish* or *gota*, crafts from her Rajasthani lineage, but only in a way that feels true to the language the brand has built. Arora spends more time at Pero's Patparganj studio than at home. Does she have a bed in the office then? "I do not! We're not from Delhi and lead quite nomadic lives. The home is work in progress too."

She laughs off the idea that Pero home pieces have already found their way into her space. Instead, she and her partner collect home textiles from craft clusters or vintage dealers, small anchors that make each new house (they've changed four in the last few years) feel a little more like home.

Ask Arora where she feels most at home and the answer loops back to the beginning, craft. "I am always at peace in any craft cluster," she says. "Seeing something being made, even if it is not for Pero, is meditative. Whether it is glass being blown in Murano or lace being made in Burano down a quiet lane, anywhere I can experience culture with craft, that is where I feel at home."

In a way, the home line completes a circle, the brand returning to the textiles that built it. Pero has always dressed the world softly, now it invites the world to live that way too.

The writer is a Mumbai-based fashion stylist.

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THE HINDU
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CREDAI BENGALURU

BG-BGE

From Page One

Gita guides individuals and also policies: Modi

Underscoring that behind the policies of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sarvajan Hitaya, Sarvajan Sukhaya" lies the inspiration of Sri Krishna's 'slokas', Mr. Modi said this very inspiration formed the basis of schemes like Ayushman Bharat and PM Awas Yojana.

"Lord Sri Krishna imparts the knowledge of women's safety and empowerment, and it is this wisdom that inspired the nation to take the historic decision of the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam. Lord Sri Krishna teaches the principle of welfare for all, and this principle underpins India's policies such as Vaccine Maitri, the Solar Alliance, and Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam," the Prime Minister said.

Noting that the tradition of Madhwacharya gave energy to the Haridasa tradition, the Prime Minister said that great saints such as Purandaradasa and Kanakadasa brought devotion in simple, melodious, and accessible Kannada language to the masses.

"Their compositions reached every heart, even the poorest sections of society, and connected them with dharma and Sanatan values, and these compositions remain equally relevant for today's generation."

Senior seer of Puthige Mutt and Paryaya seer Sugunendra Tirtha spoke. Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot was present.

Leadership change: Congress high command weighing multiple options

Party sources say that the party's top leadership is likely to take a cautious approach based on the factors that hold good for the party in the State

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

As loyalists of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy and KPCC chief D.K. Shivakumar continued to demand a Cabinet reshuffle and leadership change, respectively, the Congress high command appears to be weighing many options to end the ongoing stalemate.

Congress sources said that the party's top leadership is likely to take a cautious approach based on the factors that hold good for the party in Karnataka, a major State where the party is in power. Himachal Pradesh and Telangana are other States the Congress is ruling.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar during the golden jubilee celebration of the Integrated Child Development Services, in Bengaluru on Friday. ALLEN EGENUSE J

Rajasthan example

A Karnataka-like situation occurred in the then Congress government in Rajasthan in 2020, following a tussle between then Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and his deputy Sachin Pilot, and this was one of the factors for the defeat of the party in 2023.

Leaders maintained that the high command is expected to take some decisions in the next couple of days, as the political saga in the State is damaging the grand old party's image and governance. With two southern States (Kerala and Tamil Nadu) and two northeastern States (Assam and West Bengal) going to polls in 2026, it is believed that the high command has to take firm decisions to show its control over State units.

While the final call rests with the high command, especially Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, the top brass is expected to take the decision after seeking clarity from both the camps. With a lot of political stake around the two leaders, the party appears to be exploring all aspects before summoning both leaders to Delhi.

Five possibilities

As the first option, the top brass might ask Mr. Siddaramaiah to continue till the end of the Budget session of the legislature (March, 2026), providing him an opportunity to break the longest Chief Ministerial tenure record held by Devraj Urs and offer him a graceful exit. This would also ensure smooth transfer of power to Mr. Shivakumar. Till then, both camp leaders may be directed to control their supporters.

The second option is that the high command would ask Mr. Siddaramaiah to keep his so-called promise given by him during the formation of the government in May 2023, and allow Mr. Shivakumar to occupy the top post. In that case, Mr. Siddaramaiah might impose conditions and ask the leadership to induct his loyalists in the Cabinet and appoint his nominee for the KPCC chief.

In case both leaders declined to budge from their demands, then the third option would be asking both Mr. Siddaramaiah and Mr. Shivakumar to show their strength in the Congress Legislature Party meeting, and whoever mustered the highest support of MLAs would be asked to hold the top post.

The fourth alternative seems to be no transfer of power and allowing Mr. Siddaramaiah to undertake the Cabinet reshuffle. He would also be asked to continue in the same post till 2028 with the condition that the next Assembly elections would be held under the leadership of Mr. Shivakumar and he would be projected as the Chief Minister face. No loyalist ministers of Mr. Siddaramaiah would be allowed to enter the Chief Minister race. Mr. Shivakumar would be asked to continue as KPCC chief and the Deputy Chief Minister.

If the impasse becomes uncontrollable, as the last option, the high command might ask AICC chief Mallikarjun Kharge to return to the State to head the government. Already some leaders close to Mr. Kharge have started floating his name. This would also fulfil the Dalit leaders' demand for a Dalit Chief Minister, sources in the party said.

D.K. Suresh, Priyank Kharge reach Delhi

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Ahead of crucial meetings on the continuing political saga on power-sharing and leadership change in Karnataka, D.K. Suresh, brother of Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, and Minister for Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Priyank Kharge reached Delhi on Friday.

Both leaders are said to have gone to the national capital to hold discussions with the party's central leaders on the continuing impasse.

Meanwhile, Mr. Shivakumar, who has been demanding the Chief Minister's post after the halfway mark of the government's five-year tenure, maintained that he was in "no hurry" and the party would take a decision on all matters. In reply to a question, Mr. Shivakumar said, "The party workers may be eager, but I am in no hurry. The party will take all the decisions." He cancelled his ticket to Delhi which was earlier booked for Friday.

In another development, Nanjavadutha Swamy of the Vokkaliga community called on Mr. Shivakumar at the latter's residence and backed his claim for the top post.

At the right time

Before leaving for Delhi, Mr. Priyank Kharge said that the Congress high command possesses the sense of timing to resolve the intensifying power tussle between Mr. Siddaramaiah and his deputy. The Minister said the party would intervene at the right time.

Mr. Siddaramaiah and Mr. Shivakumar have agreed to travel to Delhi for a meeting when summoned by the party high command.

Gaming platform WinZo's directors held

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Bengaluru Zonal Office, has arrested Paavan Nanda and Saumya Singh Rathore, both Directors of New Delhi-based WinZO Games Pvt. Ltd., for their alleged involvement in money-laundering activities linked to the company's online real-money gaming operations.

The arrests were made on November 26 under provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002. The accused were produced before the Principal City Civil & Sessions Judge (CCH-1) in Bengaluru on Thursday.

According to officials, search operations were conducted last week at the WinZO's corporate office and at the residence of Saumya Singh Rathore.

PM says India knows how to maintain peace and protect itself

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

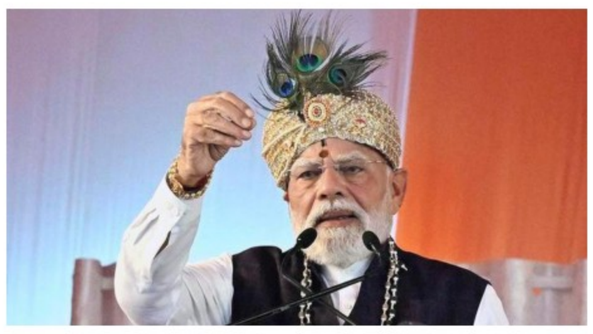
Indirectly hitting out at Pakistan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday that India knows how to maintain peace and protect itself.

Speaking at the 'Laksha Kantha Gita Parayana' programme organised by Udupi Sri Krishna Mutt and Paryaya Puthige Mutt in Udupi, Mr. Modi said, "*Hum shanti ki sthapana bhi jaante hai aur shanti ki raksha karna bhi jaante hai* (We know how to establish peace and also how to maintain it and safeguard the country)".

Referring to the Pahalgam terror attack and the subsequent Operation Sindoor, the Prime Minister said that when such terrorist attacks occurred earlier, governments (hinting at the previous Congress-led Centre) would "sit idle". "But this is *Naya Bharat* (a new India) that neither bows before anyone nor wavers from its duty to protect its citizens."

"The Gita teaches us that to establish peace and truth, the end of oppressors is also necessary. This is the core sentiment of India's security policy," the Prime Minister said.

Mr. Modi said that India speaks of '*Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*' (The world is a family) and also reiterates the mantra '*Dharmo Rakshati Rakshitah*' (Dharma will protect the one who upholds it). From the Red Fort, the message of Sri Krishna's compassion is conveyed, and from the same ramparts the announcement of Mission Sudarshan Chakra is also made, he said.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Laksha Kantha Gita Parayana programme in Udupi on Friday. H.S. MANJUNATH

"Mission Sudarshan Chakra means building a protective wall around the country's key locations, its industrial and public sectors, which the enemy cannot breach, and if the enemy dares to show audacity, then India's Sudarshan Chakra will destroy them," the Prime Minister said.

Stating that the Bhagavad Gita makes people aware of their duties and life commitments. Inspired by this, he urged everyone to adopt nine resolutions in life. They include water conservation, afforestation, uplifting at least one person from poverty, promotion of "swadeshi" products and technology, natural farming, healthy living by reducing oil consumption, daily yoga practice, conservation of manuscripts, and visiting at least 25 places connected to Indian heritage.

The programme at Udupi had a gathering of about one lakh participants who recited verses from 18 chapters of the Bhagavad Gita in unison.

Earlier, Mr. Modi inaugurated the Suvarna Tirtha Mantapa, located in front of the Krishna sanctum, and dedicated the Kanaka Kavacha (golden cover) to the Kanakana Kindi, a window through which Saint Kanakadasa is believed to have had the darshan of Sri Krishna.

On the way to the mutt from Udupi helipad, he conducted a road show from Bannanje Narayana Guru Circle to Kalsanka in Udupi.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Department of Power

The Department of Power, Govt. of West Bengal invites applications from Indian Nationals to fill up the vacant post of **Director (Generation)** in **West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Limited**, a consistently profit-making and professionally managed Government of West Bengal Enterprise, engaged in the business of Power Distribution and Hydro & Solar Power Generation.

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Age : Maximum 61 years as on 01.01.2025.

Qualification : Bachelor Degree in Civil/Electrical/Mechanical Engineering with 25 years of experience in the relevant field.

Further details, experience required & application format may be downloaded from the website **www.wbpower.gov.in** as well as **www.wbsedcl.in.**

Last date and time of receipt of Application :
31st December, 2025 up to 5.00P.M. by email / post / hand.

ICA- N 618(3)/2025

BENGALURU EAST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Doddanekundi Division, Opp. to Phoenix Mall, ITPL Main Road, Mahadevapura, Bengaluru-560048.

No. BECC/EE/DNK/TN/04/2025-26 Date: 28-11-2025

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(Only through GoK KPP Portal)

The Executive Engineer, Doddanekundi Division, BECC, Bengaluru on behalf the Commissioner, BECC invites Item Rate Tenders from eligible contractors registered in BBMP or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Govt. Organisations for the following works.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Comprehensive Development of Arterial and Sub arterial roads and Drains and other allied works in Doddanekundi Main road from ORR to HAL Old Airport road (ISRO Road), AECS Layout 60 Ft. road from CMRIT college to Kundalahalli junction and Chinnappanahalli main road via from Rainbow hospital to Jeevika hospital road and Hoodi main road from Y. Junction to Hoodi Circle in Mahadevapura Constituency under GoK Grants (Call-02). Amount put to tender : **Rs. 1499.98 lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 1,00,000/-** through KPP portal + **Rs. 14,00,000/-** in the form of BC/FDR. Period of Completion : **9 months.**
2	Comprehensive Development of Arterial and Sub arterial roads and Drains and other allied works in Vishweshwariaah Main road, 2nd Main (Doddanekundi Industrial Estate) from Graphite India Main Road to Vishweshwariah Main Road, 2nd main (Rado Industrial Works) and in EPIP Main road via Vydehi Hospital from Graphite India Road to ITPL Main road (Big Bazaar junction) and in Garudacharapalya link road from Graphite India Main road to Garudacharpalya in Mahadevapura Constituency under GoK Grants (Call-02). Amount put to tender : **Rs. 1208.31 lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 1,00,000/-** through KPP portal + **Rs. 14,00,000/-** in the form of BC/FDR. Period of Completion : **9 months.**

Calendar of Events: **(1)** Tender documents may be downloaded from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** **(2)** Last date of submission of queries : **01.12.2025 within 3.00 pm.** **(3)** Date of Pre-bid meeting : **01.12.2025 within 3.00 pm.** **(4)** Last date for receipt of tenders : **05.12.2025 upto 4.00 pm.** **(5)** Date of opening of technical bid : **06.12.2025 at 4.30 pm.** **(6)** Date of opening of Financial bid: **08.12.2025 at 4.00 pm.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Doddanekundi Division, BECC

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT CORPORATION (CHENNAI) LIMITED
PALLAVAN ILLAM, ANNA SALAI, CHENNAI - 600 002.
e -TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of Metropolitan Transport Corporation (Chennai) Limited tenders are invited for **9 numbers various works of Civil & Electrical** from the eligible tenderers through e-Tender web portal **(https://tntenders.gov.in).**

Tender documents can be downloaded from : **08.12.2025 upto the end of Tender submission time.**
Tender submission starts from : **10.12.2025 from 09.00 Hrs.**
Last date of submission of Tender : **06.01.2026 upto 12.00 Hrs.**
Tender will be opened on : **06.01.2026 at 15.15 Hrs.**

Tender document is available in Government website **https://tntenders.gov.in**

Modification (if any) in tender terms and conditions will be uploaded in the website and the tenderers are requested to go through the above website periodically.

MTC (Chennai) Ltd. reserves the right to accept / reject any stage of tender without assigning any reason thereof.

DIPR/ 6381 /TENDER/2025 **MANAGING DIRECTOR**

CHENNAI METRO RAIL LIMITED
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(ISO 9001:2015 AND ISO 14001:2015 CERTIFIED)
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CMRL invites open tenders through CPP e-procurement Portal (https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app) from eligible firms who fulfill the qualification criteria as mentioned in the bid documents under Single Stage Two Envelope (Technical & Financial) system for the work as detailed below:

1) CMRL/CP/TDR-61-CS-DDC/2025: "Detailed Design for Property Development of Standalone and Integrated Entry/Exits of Metro Stations at Nandanam, Boat Club, Bharathidasan Road, Alwarpet, Kutchery Road, Kattupakkam, Iyappanthangal, Alappakkam – Multi Level Car Parking (MLCP) with FOB & Place Making Proposal at C4 & C5 Demerging location of CMRL Phase-2."

(i) Bid document available from: 04 December 2025
(ii) Deadline for bid submission: 31 December 2025

2) CMRL/CP/TDR-62-CON/2025: "Demolition & Re-Construction of Bridge across Virugambakkam – Arumbakkam Canal at Kaaliamman Kovil Street for CMRL Phase – 2."

(i) Bid document available from: 04 December 2025
(ii) Deadline for bid submission: 02 January 2026

For further details, please visit: **https://chennaimetrorail.org/**

Sd/-
For Managing Director
Director (Projects)
Chennai Metro Rail Limited

DIPR/6382/TENDER/2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that our client intends to purchase the agricultural land morefully setout in the schedule given below and hereinafter referred to as the "Schedule Property", from its owner, Sri. Narasappa, Son of late Sri. Yellappa, Aged about 67 years, Residing at Gollahalli Village, Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore Rural – 562123 and others ("Owners"). Any person/s whomsoever having any right, title, interest or claim in the Schedule Property or any part thereof, in any manner or objecting to such sale in favour of our client should write to the undersigned within **Seven (07) days** of issuance of this public notice with all documentary proof on which they are basing their rights with regard to the Schedule Property. If no claims or objections are received within the stipulated time, it shall be deemed that the Schedule Property is free from all charges, liens, vested interest, rights, claims or encumbrances whatsoever of any nature and our client shall proceed to complete the said sale transaction.

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All that piece and parcel of the portion of the agricultural land bearing Sy.No.14/2, measuring 8.4 guntas out of 28 guntas and 14 guntas of karab, situated at Gollahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District and bounded as follows :-
On or towards the East by : Remaining portion of the land bearing Sy.No.14/2;
On or towards the West by : Road and thereafter land in Sy.No.14/5;
On or towards the North by : Remaining portion of the land bearing Sy.No.14/2;
On or towards the South by : and bearing Sy.No.14/3.
Together with all easement rights, water courses and right of access, etc.

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Advocates and Legal Consultants
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Ph: +91 80 41158500 / 9880060116
E-mail: harish@sathyaandco.com

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

SAD DEMISE

R NAGARAJAN
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Mount Mettur Pharmaceuticals
Passed away peacefully on 28.11.2025
Leaving behind his grieving family
Vasantha Nagarajan
Jayashree - Mahesh
Ramnath - Aparna
Mahita - Varun
loving siblings, nieces and nephews

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Shri. **Radha K. Raman**

A fountainhead of knowledge and always a source of inspiration, your strong leadership, hard work, ethics, principles and values will continue to guide us. Your vision will motivate us forever.

Fondly remembered by Family Members, Directors, Employees of MIL family
MIL Industries Ltd
Chennai

Bengaluru's air cleanest among Indian metros, but still not 'safe'

Although comparatively cleaner, rapid urbanisation and vehicle growth prevent the city from falling into safe range

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

An analysis of the Air Quality Index (AQI) across major Indian cities from 2015 to November 2025 has revealed that Bengaluru has the cleanest air among metros. However, the findings said that though Bengaluru shows the best air quality, it is still not "safe." According to Climate Trends AQI data across major Indian cities from 2015 to November 2025, none of the top urban centres in India can be considered "safe" in terms of air quality.

Climate Trends is a research-based consulting and capacity building initiative.

"AQI remains between 65 and 90 most years, although comparatively cleaner, these values still exceed the 'Good' category, and rapid urbanisation and vehicle growth prevent the city from falling into safe range," states the key finding for Bengaluru.

Delhi most polluted

It added that Delhi remains the most polluted city throughout the study period, maintaining persistently high AQI values from peaks above 250 (2016) to levels still near 180 in 2025.

"While there is minor year-to-year fluctuation, the city never approaches safe thresholds and continues to experience chronic poor air quality driven by vehicular emissions, industrial activity, seasonal crop burning, and geographic factors," it added.

It further said that while a few cities demonstrate gradual improvement over time, the overall pollution load remains high, with northern cities like Delhi, Lucknow, and Varanasi experiencing the most severe and persistent levels.

"Southern and western cities such as Bengaluru, Chennai, Mumbai, and Pune perform comparatively better but still fail to achieve truly healthy air-quality ranges. These findings highlight the continued impact of traffic emissions, industrial activity, seasonal factors, and rapid urbanisation across the country," it said.

Palak Balyan, research lead, Climate Trends, said, "Moving to another city for cleaner air isn't a real solution, and most people can't afford to do it anyway. What India needs is sustained, long-term, science-based policy reform backed by genuine political will to take tough decisions".

He added that air pollution affects everyone, but not equally: people who spend more time outdoors are impacted the most.

Kerala Governor cannot sit on report on V-C postings: SC

State tells top court that Arlekar didn't act on a list of names shortlisted by a former SC judge-led panel and forwarded by CM; SC says Governor cannot treat report as an 'ordinary piece of paper'

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court took serious note of a Kerala government submission on Friday that Governor Rajendra Arlekar is "not looking" into a retired Supreme Court judge's report on long-pending appointment of regular Vice-Chancellors to two State-run universities, forwarded to him by the Chief Minister.

The Kerala Governor is the Chancellor of the two universities.

A Bench led by Justice J.B. Pardiwala said the report from a former judge of the court cannot be treated by the Governor as an "ordinary piece of paper" .

Justice Pardiwala is the author of the August 8 judgment in the Tamil Nadu Governor case. That verdict fixed timelines for Governors to deal with pending State Bills waiting for assent. The judgment had led to a Presidential Reference in which the Supreme Court clarified that Governors cannot be tied to time frames. The turn of events has led to public debates about gubernatorial offices weaponising delay and the consequent impact on federalism.

Governor Rajendra Arlekar with CM Pinarayi Vijayan. FILE PHOTO

The present case dealt with the prolonged impasse between the State and the Governor over the appointment of Vice-Chancellors to the APJ Abdul Kalam Technological University and the Digital Sciences University.

The Supreme Court intervened on August 18 to appoint Justice (retired) Sudhanshu Dhulia to head a selection committee to recommend names for appointment as Vice-Chancellors of the two varsities. The court had ordered the shortlisted names to be placed before the Chief Minister for his consideration. The court had entitled the Chief Minister to recommend to the Governor the shortlisted names in order of preference.

"It is expected of the Chancellor to look into the report of the Justice Dhulia committee and proceed further," the court said. The Bench posted the case for hearing next week.

NISAR satellite enters final science phase

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The NASA ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite, launched in July, has entered the science phase, the ISRO announced on Friday.

The earth observation satellite provides all-weather, day-and-night data, which have a wide range of applications. It is the first satellite jointly developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the U.S.'s National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

The NISAR mission is broadly classified into different phases - launch, deployment, commissioning and science phases. The final science operations phase begins at the end of commissioning and extends till the end of NISAR's five-year mission life.

"During this phase, the science orbit will be maintained via regular manoeuvres, scheduled to avoid or minimise conflicts with science observations. Extensive calibration and validation activities will take place," the ISRO had said earlier.

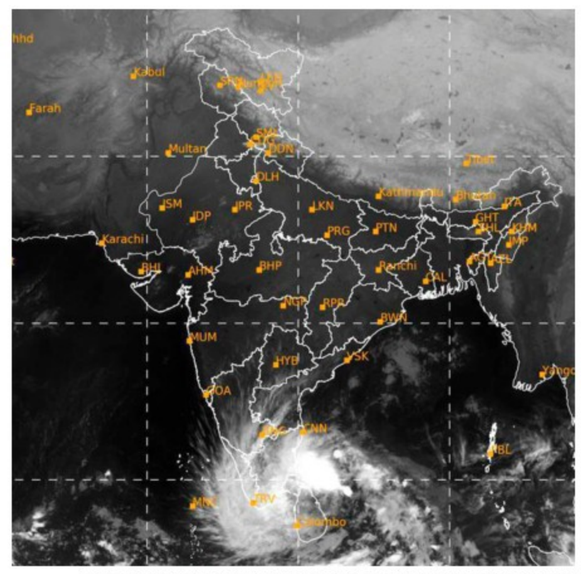
Following the successful launch of the satellite on July 30 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, the 12-metre diameter antenna reflector was successfully deployed.

The 12-meter diameter antenna reflector plays a key role for both ISRO's S-Band and NASA's L-Band Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) Payload.

The antenna was launched in a stowed condition on a 9m-long boom, which was tucked close to the satellite. The antenna and the 9m boom was developed by NASA.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Saturday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe. Fog likely at isolated pockets over Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi and Odisha

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	30.8	15.9	Kozhikode	—	33.8	22.6
Ahmedabad	—	31.4	21.1	Kurnool	—	30.5	19.8
Aizawl	—	26.2	11.8	Lucknow	—	27.6	11.0
Allahabad	—	27.8	10.2	Madurai	—	27.0	23.2
Bengaluru	—	25.3	16.1	Mangaluru	—	30.4	20.6
Bhopal	—	25.6	11.0	Mumbai	—	33.4	20.5
Bhubaneswar	—	29.8	14.3	Mysuru	—	25.0	17.2
Chandigarh	—	27.8	7.6	New Delhi	—	25.9	8.1
Chennai	—	30.0	26.0	Patna	—	27.7	17.1
Coimbatore	—	28.9	18.4	Port Blair	—	29.8	25.2
Dehradun	—	27.6	8.7	Puducherry	—	28.6	22.6
Gangtok	—	20.5	10.6	Pune	—	30.6	18.7
Goa	—	31.9	21.0	Raipur	—	27.7	13.7
Guwahati	—	29.0	15.3	Ranchi	—	25.9	12.0
Hubballi	—	29.0	16.0	Shillong	—	20.3	9.6
Hyderabad	—	28.8	16.2	Shimla	—	21.0	7.6
Imphal	—	25.9	14.6	Srinagar	—	12.1	-4.5
Jaipur	0.4	25.6	15.2	Thiruvananthapuram	—	27.4	24.3
Kochi	—	29.2	23.8	Tiruchi	—	27.3	23.6
Kohima	—	22.0	10.2	Vijayawada	—	29.8	20.4
Kolkata	—	29.4	16.7	Visakhapatnam	—	29.4	21.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.22	..55	27	... 308	...197	
Bengaluru	.14	..46	52	... 165	...121	
Chennai	.16	..27	25	... 236	...132	
Delhi	.47	143	65	... 418	...391	
Hyderabad	.18	..13	37	... 210	...123	
Kolkata	...7	109	51	... 244	...189	
Lucknow	.10	..36	..8	... 150	...235	
Mumbai	...7	..45	38	... 143	...205	
Pune	...8	..65	86	... 266	...230	
Visakhapatnam	..—	..—	14	..... —	.....—	.....

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Noida, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 388 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 13

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD
Jalabhavana, 5th Floor, No.5, 1st Stage, 1st Phase, BTM Layout, Bannerughatta Main Road, Bengaluru-560029

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

No: KWB/TEC/CE(B)/Chitradurga DC Works/1266/ 2025-26, Dated: 28.11.2025

Name of the Work: Tender for the work of Interception and Diversion works across Pillekerenalli Nala to divert the sewage entering Mallapura Lake under DC Works of CMC, Chitradurga in Lumpsum mode (No Variation)
Indent No.: KUWSDB/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT449
For further details may be obtained through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal website:
https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (B),
KUWS & D Board, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/4072/CCL/2025-26

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No. KPTCL/CGMT/CIVIL(B121)/6/2025- DGMC (E-263858) Date: 28.11.2025

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION

KPTCL invites sealed tenders from experienced Caterers / Hoteliers / Agencies running canteen in Government / PSUs for **"Providing freshly prepared canteen food / freshly prepared outside food and beverages in KPTCL canteen, 1st floor, Indhana Bhavana, Anand Rao Circle, Bengaluru - 560009 (with the available kitchen equipments and infrastructure)"** Blank tender documents with full details can be obtained during office hours by paying Rs. 500/- + GST 18% in person and Rs. 600/- + GST 18% by post by cash or DD drawn in favour of Director (A&HR), KPTCL, Kaveri Bhavan, Bengaluru, payable at Bengaluru. Last of date for purchase of blank tender documents is on **16.12.2025 upto 15:00** hours and Last date for submission of tender is on **17.12.2025 upto 15:00** hours. Further, details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Chief General Manager (Tech),
Corporate Office, KPTCL, Kaveri Bhavan,
Bengaluru - 560009. Ph. 080-22211527.

KARNATAKA CO-OPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS' FEDERATION LIMITED
KMF Complex, Dr. M.H. Marigowda Road, DRC Post, Bengaluru-560 029.
Tel: 080-25536625 / 25536789 fax: 080-25536105 E-mail: kmfengg@gmail.com

IFT No: KMF/ENGG/ Ghee FFS Machine -NHMPP/02206/2025-26 Date: 28-11-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

[Two cover System] [Through KPP Portal only]

Karnataka Milk Federation Ltd; Bangalore invites tender from the eligible manufacturers/ authorised dealer through KPP Portal for the works mentioned in the table below. The interested manufacturers /Suppliers who have handled similar kind of works may participate in the tender as indicated below, by logging on to website **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and also contact **Help desk E-mail; hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com and helpline no. 080-25501227/ 25501216.**

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Qty.	EMD (Rs.)	Period of Contract
1	Design, Supply, Testing, & Commissioning of Ghee Packing Machine & accessories with SS Valve, Fittings, Bend etc to NHMPP Ramanagar	1 Job	50,000/-	3 Months

(1) Tender schedules may be downloaded from dated: **01-12-2025 to 15-12-2025 upto 4.00 pm. (2)** Last date for Tender submission on date: **15-12-2025 upto 4.00 pm. (3)** Tender [Part 1] to be opened on date : **16-12-2025 at 4.30 pm.**

For Karnataka Milk Federation Limited
Sd/- Director [Engineering-2]

KARNATAKA STATE FINANCIAL CORPORATION
Established Under the State Financial Corporation Act 1951
Branc Office: No.2-917/1-K.S.C.A & R.D Bank Building, Opp: Hindi Prachara Sabha,
Govt.Hospital Road, KALABURAGI – 585 102, Ph.No:08472-221407, e-mail: glb.ksfc@karnataka.gov.in

Ref : KSFC/BO/KLBG/629/2025-26 Date : 28-11-2025

SALE OF ASSETS THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT

The following assets have been taken over under section 29 of the SFC's Act 1951 and the same are available for sale on **"As is where is Condition"** through e-procurement. Interested persons for the purchase of the following assets may participate in the bid through e-procurement.

Sl No	Name of the Unit/Party	Description of the property for sale	Reserve price	EMD Amount
01	M/s Mailar Automobiles & Engineering, Prop: Sri. Rajesh S/o Devendrapkri, Old Jewargi Road, Bank Colony, Kalaburgi.	Plot No: Spl 02, Land measuring 672 Sq.Mtr and Building, KSSIDC Industrial Estate, 2nd Stage, Bankur, Shahabad, Tq: Shahabad, Dist: Kalaburagi.	18,38,000/-	1,84,000/-
02	M/s Fathima Ash Bricks Industry, Prop: Sri. Maheboob Patel S/o Peers Patel. Ambewad Village, Sakkaraga Post, Tq: Aland, Dist: Kalaburagi.	1 Acre Industrial Land situated at Sy.No.96/2,(New), 96/1AAP1 (Old) GP NO.27, Ward No.1, Ambewad Village, Tq: Aland, Dist: Kalaburagi.	9,00,000/-	90,000/-
03	M/s Tulja Bhavani Leather Industry, Prop: Sri. Ranappa S/o Peerappa Natikar. Chincholli, Dist: Kalaburgi.	Plot No: R-18, Land measuring 378 Sq.Mtr, KSSIDC Industrial Estate, Chandapur, Chincholli, Dist: Kalaburgi.	4,94,000/-	49,500/-
04	M/s.Watan Masala Industries, Prop: Smt. Atiya W/o Mohd.Yusuf, Chandapur-Chnicholi Dist:Kalaburagi	Plot No.Spl.-01, Chandapur-Chnicholi KSSIDC, Industrial Area, chincholi, Land measuring 214.20 Sq.Mtr., along with Building and part of machineries.	23,36,000/-	2,34,000/-
05	M/s.Aishwarya Stone Crushing Prop:-Sri.Nagappa S/o Siddappa Doddamani, Tavargera Village, Tq: Dist: Kalaburagi.	1 Acre Industrial NA Land and M.S.Stand, Hoofer, 12 Mtrs belt conveyer of stone crusher parts in scraped condition.	9,60,000/-	96,000/-
06	M/s.Taj Industries Partners: 1)Smt.Tasneem Begum W/o Shaikh Nizam, 2) Smt.Shaikh Hina Anjum W/o Abdul Raheem Ataleeq, H.No.5-408/50A, Ring Road, Rafi Chowk, Qamar Colony, Kalaburagi-585104.	Plot No.30(P), Sy.No.32, KIADB, Nandur-Kesaratagi Industrial Area, First Phase, Shahabad Road, Kalaburagi. Land measuring 2029.86 Sq.Mtrs, Building and Dall processing machineries.	1,04,54,000/-	10,46,000/-
07	M/s.Aishwarya Industries. Prop:-Smt. Jyothi W/o Devendrappa Doddamani, Swastik Nagar, Chinde Layout, Sedam Road, Kalaburagi.	Plot No. CA-3(P), KIADB, Industrial Area IInd stage Kapnoor, Tq: Dist: Kalaburagi Land measuring 682 Sq.Mtrs, & half constructed Building without roof.	27,66,000/-	2,77,000/-
08	M/s. Balaji Fabrication & General Engg.Works Prop: Smt. Gouramma W/o Ravindra Chichkoti Ghyansham apartment, Opp: Fire Station, Shahbazar Road, Kalaburagi.	Sy.No.35 & 39, Plot No.59(P1), situated at KIADB, Nandur Kesaratagi Industrial Area, Kalaburagi. Land measuring 3800 Sq.Mtrs, and Building.	1,15,73,000/-	11,58,000/-
09	M/s.Jai Bhavani Hotel Boarding & Lodging, Prop: Premkumar S/o Umesh Rathod, No.12-48/89, 90 & 91, Sy.No.241, Chincholi(H) Village, Tq: Kalagi, Dist: Kalaburagi.	Sy.No.241, Panchyat No. 12-48/89, 90 & 91, situated at Kodali Cross, Tq: Chincholi, Dist: Kalaburagi. Land measuring 15,600 Sq.Mtrs., Building and furnitures	1,60,24,000/-	16,03,000/-
10	M/s.Siddakrupa Fly Ash Bricks Industry. Prop: Smt.Shridevi W/o Maharudrappa, Swastik Nagar, Chinde Layout, Sedam Road, Kalaburagi.	Plot No.55(P), situated at Nandur-Kesratagi Industrial Area, 2nd stage Shahabad Road, Kalaburagi. Land measuring 1000 Sq.Mtrs and Building partially constructed and parts of machineries are available.	38,75,000/-	3,88,000/-
11	M/s.BHAGYAVANTHI BOARDING & LODGING, Partners: Smt.Shridevi W/o Ninganna Pujari, SHAHABAD-585228.	Plot CMC No.18-2-3-16/1(N ew), Ward No.18, Sy.No.381/ p4/2, Shahabad to Jewargi Road, SHAHABAD-585228. NA Land measuring 22 Guntas & Building of three floors constructed for Boarding & Lodging (without Doors & Windows).	1,29,77,000/-	12,98,000/-
12	M/s.R.R.Korvi Stone Crushers, Prop: Raviraj S/o Revansiddappa Koravi Hodebeeranahalli Village, Tq: Chincholi, Dist: Kalaburagi.	1 Acre NA Land in Sy.No. 169/3, & 169/4, GP No.1/40, RDPR No. 151500300100320006, situated at Hodeberranhalli Village, Tq: Chincholl,Dist: Kalaburagi.	2,79,000/-	28,000/-
13	M/s.R.R.Koravi Stone Crushing Patners: 1) Reviraj S/o Revansiddappa Koravi, 2) Sri.Mohan S/o Devala, Hodebeeranahalli Village, Tq: Chincholi, Dist: Kalaburagi.	1 Acre NA Land in Sy.No. 169/3, & 169/4, GP No.1/40, RDPR No. 151500300100320006, situated at Hodeberranhalli Village, Tq: Chincholl,Dist: Kalaburagi.	2,79,000/-	28,000/-

a) Inspection of the property on **15-12-2025 Time:11.00 am to 4.00 pm,** b) Last date of payment of EMD on: **26-12-2025 before 4.00 pm,** c) e-procurement will commence on: **29-12-2025 at 10.30 am and closes on: 30-12-2025 at 11.00 am,** d) The terms and conditions of the sale through e-procurement are detailed on website viz. **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in & www.ksfc.in** The interested persons are advised to visit the aforesaid website. The promoters / security owners of the above units are requested to ensure that the prospective bidders from their side to participate in the above e-procurement. e) The sale is on **"As is where is Condition"** basis. f) All the statutory dues such as dues/taxes payable to **KIADB,KSSIDC, GESCOM,** Local authorities, etc on the property should be borne by the buyer.

Date : 28-11-2025.
Place: Kalaburagi

Sd/-
Branch Manager.

DIPR/Kalaburagi/797/KSMC&A/2025-26

Office Of The Deputy Commissioner, Koppal

Annexure-A

Providing Consultancy Services as 3rd Party (third Party) to inspect the Works and Services being executed under DMF and other funds of Deputy Commissioner in the Koppal district. For further information call @ 08539-220844/ 8147824645.

Name of the Work:1.Providing Consultancy Services as 3rd Party (third Party) to Inspect the Works and Services being executed under DMF and other funds of Deputy Commissioner Office Koppal. For One Year From The Date Of Award. **Approx. Project cost:** 10000/- lakhs **EMD Amount:** 1/- lakh NewsPaper Publication Date: **29.11.2025** Last date for the receiving applications: **16.12.2025** Evening at 5:00 PM Access of tender documents in the website date: **29.11.2025** Technical bid opening date:**17.12.2025** Evening at 5:30 PM Financial bid opening date: **20.12.2025** Morning at 11:30 AM

Sd/- Deputy Commissioner Koppal.

DIPR/Koppal/485/KSMCA/2025-26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕೋಶ, ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ, ಕಾರವಾರ–581301
DISTRICT URBAN DEVELOPMENT CELL, D.C. OFFICE
UTTARA KANNADA DISTRICT, KARWAR-581301
Ph/Fax: 08382-221170 Email: ka.uttarakannada.dudc@gmail.com
No. DUDC 1/LWM/CR/2025-26 Date: 27-11-2025

Tender Notification

The Project Director, Uttar Kannada District, Uttar Kannada, invites tenders from the eligible tenderers for undertaking Bio-Mining, Bio-remediation, Processing and disposal of Legacy waste and reclamation of Land under SWM 2.0 scheme CMC Karwar & Town Panchayat Honnavar Indent No. **DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_ INDENT 49966** refer **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. Downloading of Tender Documents: **28-11-2025 at 11.00 hrs,** Last date for Queries & Pre Bid Meeting date: **08-12-2025 at 11.00 hrs,** Last Date for uploading the Tender dated: **15-12-2025 at 17.00 hrs,** Opening of Technical Bid dated: **16-12-2025 at 17.30 hrs,** Opening of Financial Bid dated:**19-12-2025 at 11.00 hrs.**

Sd/- Project Director
District Urban Development Cell
DC Office, U.K. District, Karwar

DIPR/KWR/KSMCA/773/25-26 dt. 28.11.2025

KARNATAKA CO-OPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS' FEDERATION LIMITED
KMF Complex, Dr. M.H. Marigowda Road, DRC Post, Bengaluru-560 029.
Tel: 080-25536625 / 25536789 fax: 080-25536105 E-mail: kmfengg@gmail.com

IFT No: KMF/ENGG/ Ghee Clarifier -NHMPP/02205/2025-26 Date: 28-11-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

[Two cover System] [Through KPP Portal only]

Karnataka Milk Federation Ltd; Bangalore invites tender from the eligible manufacturers/ authorised dealer through KPP Portal for the works mentioned in the table below. The interested manufacturers /Suppliers who have handled similar kind of works may participate in the tender as indicated below, by logging on to website **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and also contact **Help desk E-mail; hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com and helpline no. 080-25501227/ 25501216.**

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Qty.	EMD (Rs.)	Period of Contract
1	Design, Supply, Testing, & Commissioning of 2KL Ghee Clarifier & accessories with SS Valve, Fittings, Bend etc to NHMPP Ramanagar.	1 Job	50,000/-	3 Months

(1) Tender schedules may be downloaded from dated: **01-12-2025 to 15-12-2025 upto 4.00 pm. (2)** Last date for Tender submission on date: **15-12-2025 upto 4.00 pm. (3)** Tender [Part 1] to be opened on date : **16-12-2025 at 4.30 pm.**

For Karnataka Milk Federation Limited
Sd/- Director [Engineering-2]

Data deficiencies

IMF's low grading shows how damaging delays in data upgrades can be

The IMF's 'C' grade for India's national accounts statistics should be a matter of concern for India, which has a reasonably robust data collection and analysis apparatus in place. A 'C' grade is the second lowest there is, and implies that there are some issues with the data that impede the adequate surveillance of the economy. National accounts not only include zoomed out macro indicators such as GDP and GVA but also sectoral metrics and measures of investment levels, consumer spending and – of particular interest right now – how exports are doing. Issues with these metrics, therefore, impede effective and targeted policymaking. A grade of 'C' puts India in the same league as China when it comes to its national accounts, a decidedly unenviable position to be in. The IMF is not the first to point out the flaws in India's national accounts. Nor is this the first time that it has pointed them out. The IMF's main problem with the national accounts data, that its base year of 2011-12 is very outdated, has been pointed out time and again. Outdated data is a problem India has been grappling with for a while now. The Index of Industrial Production and the Consumer Price Index both have a base year of 2011-12. In fact, even the IMF said the reason that India's CPI received a grade of 'B' and not 'A' was because of the outdated base year. The outdated base year and the inordinate weightage of food in the CPI have resulted in India not being able to accurately capture price movements. Consequently, the RBI's monetary policy is also impaired.

The government is currently in the process of updating the base years and methodologies for national accounts, CPI, and IIP, with the new series due to be launched in early 2026. Perhaps the biggest issue with the national accounts statistics in India – and the area that requires the most attention – is the inability to accurately capture the informal sector. The informal sector, by definition, is extremely difficult to quantify since it comprises entities that are unregistered and cash-based. Yet, a more accurate estimate of the informal sector will not only materially impact the growth rate and size of the economy but will also lend crucial insight into how the bulk of India's population is doing. India's national accounts estimation has certainly improved over the years. The 2011-12 series included granular data from India's corporate sector through the MCA-21 database, replacing the earlier Annual Survey of Industries. The proposed inclusion of GST data in GDP estimation in next year's series is a welcome improvement. The IMF's grade just further underscores how damaging delays in data releases and upgrades can be.

Tense waters

China and Japan must de-escalate and focus on economic cooperation

The recent escalation of tensions between China and Japan has become one of the most serious diplomatic crises between the two Asian giants. The trigger was Japan's new Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's November 7 statement that any Chinese military actions against Taiwan could pose a threat to Japan's survival, implying that Tokyo might intervene militarily. This was the first time a sitting Japanese Prime Minister made an explicit remark about Japan's stance on a potential Chinese military action in Taiwan, marking a sharp departure from the cautious strategic ambiguity that Tokyo had long maintained. An enraged China has demanded that Ms. Takaichi retract her remarks, and has banned Japanese seafood imports and issued travel advisories to its citizens to avoid Japan. China has also claimed that Japan is planning to deploy missiles on Yonaguni island near Taiwan, calling it "an extremely dangerous move". Chinese Coast Guard vessels are also patrolling the waters around the disputed Diaoyu/Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea, actions Japan says violate its territorial waters. Beijing has warned that any Japanese military intervention in Taiwan would be treated as an act of aggression.

China's anger is not entirely unfounded. Japan's colonial legacy still casts a long shadow over the region. From 1895 to 1945, Taiwan lived under Japanese occupation following the Treaty of Shimonoseki. Japan's brutal occupation of parts of China left wounds that are still raw in Chinese collective memory. Taiwan was returned to Chinese control after Japan was defeated in the Second World War, but became a separate administrative entity when the Kuomintang retreated there following the communist revolution of 1949. Although Taiwan has been self-ruled ever since, China considers it as a core sovereignty issue, a position acknowledged by most countries, including the U.S., through their adherence to the One-China policy. For decades, the status quo helped preserve the Taiwan Strait. Despite the deep mistrust, China and Japan remain economically intertwined – bilateral trade exceeds $300 billion annually. But the election of Ms. Takaichi, a hardline nationalist, and her provocative rhetoric, coupled with China's forceful response, now threaten to usher in an era of full-spectrum hostility in East Asia. An immediate solution to the Taiwan issue is unlikely. For peace and stability to endure, especially amid global conflicts, the status quo – shaped by China's claims, Taiwan's self-rule, America's strategic ambiguity and restraint on all sides – must be preserved. China and Japan should de-escalate and refocus on strengthening economic cooperation. The U.S., Japan's treaty ally, must balance its security commitments with diplomatic efforts that are aimed at preventing miscalculation.

The 'impartiality' of a nominated Governor

M.A. Baby

is General Secretary, Communist Party of India (Marxist)

The Supreme Court of India judgment on the role of Governors and the subsequent advisory given by the Supreme Court Constitutional Bench on the 16th Presidential reference have sparked a debate on the letter and spirit of the Constitution. The words that found a place in the final draft adopted by the Constituent Assembly reflected the spirit of the debates that the august House had witnessed. Incidentally, it was on November 26, 1949, that the Constitution was adopted.

The debate on the role of Governors in the Assembly was one of quality and substance. Many questions were raised about the office, the role and the powers of a Governor in an independent India. At every turn, Babasaheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar intervened and clarified the carefully thought-out ideas that had gone into the draft.

Doubts were expressed by members about the impartiality of a nominated Governor. They argued that as a nominee of the central government, and not elected by the people, he would be 'remote-controlled' and 'no different from the old provincial governors under the Government of India Act, 1935'. They wanted the office-holder to be above suspicion and feared that they might become a "replica of the Viceroy's nominees".

'A purely constitutional Governor'

Replying to these apprehensions raised by the members in 1947, and later in 1949, before the adoption of the Constitution, Dr. Ambedkar said, "Some members have expressed fear that a nominated Governor will be a nominee of the Centre and not of the Province. I have no doubt that the Governor is required to act on the advice of his Ministers. He is not intended to be an agent of the Centre." And further, "It must be emphatically stated that the Governor under the Constitution is a purely constitutional Governor. He is there to make the parliamentary system work, not to rival the elected Ministry."

The next major debate that took place was on the discretionary powers of the Governor. Once again, many members participating in the debate voiced their opposition to such provisions. They said that these reminded them of the 1935 Act, to which Dr. Ambedkar once again responded: "It is wrong to say that by this provision we are reviving the ghosts of 1935. That Constitution gave the Governor a general overriding power. Our Constitution does not." He was even more categorical as members persisted with their objections: "I hope members will not read into the Constitution more than what is contained in it. The Governor is not to be an interfering authority. His discretion is a very limited discretion." By 'limited discretion', he meant matters such as the selection of a Chief Minister for the formation of a new government after elections or other issues explicitly mentioned in the Constitution. More importantly, he did not envisage a Governor acting as an 'interfering authority' – as many present-day Governors in Opposition-ruled States often do.

The discussion on the power of Governors is even more relevant today in the context of past debate

A relevant discussion today

The discussion on the power of Governors to withhold assent to Bills is even more relevant today. Again, members referred to the 1935 Act. N.G. Ranga made his point succinctly: "A Bill passed by an elected Legislature should not be at the mercy of a nominated Governor. This is dangerous. It is giving the Governor discretionary power under another guise." Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri also joined the issue: "Sir, the Governor's power to reserve a Bill for the President is a direct affront to the elected Legislature. It is nothing but the residue of the old powers exercised by the British Governors who were agents of the Viceroy... We have been told many times that the Governor is not to be an interfering authority. But if you give him this power, he becomes exactly that."

Dr. Ambedkar again allayed the fears expressed by the members: "There seems to be some misunderstanding regarding the nature of this power. The reservation of Bills for the consideration of the President is not a discretionary power to be exercised by the Governor in his own right... It would be a mistake to suppose that the Governor has been given a general overriding authority. He has absolutely none... The reservation of Bills is required only in a limited class of cases – those Bills which may endanger the position of the Centre, or violate fundamental constitutional provisions."

He made this even clearer when he said: "I want to assure the House that the Governor is not expected to sit in judgment over Bills passed by the Legislature. His functions are formal... Where the Constitution says he shall act on advice, he must act on advice. Where it says he shall act in his discretion, only then may he do so....The Constitution must be read as a whole. No power of discretion is to be inferred unless expressly provided." He emphatically reiterated, "There is no ground for fear that the Governor will become a rival authority."

According to Dr. Ambedkar, a Governor in the constitutional scheme does not enjoy any special powers even during an emergency. Governors must act on the advice of the Council of Ministers even in such situations. In fact, he was so confident about the limited role of Governors that he remarked: "The powers of the Governor were so limited, so nominal, his position so ornamental... that I think that very few would come forward to stand for election."

Such was the understanding of the framers of the Constitution about the powers of the Governor and his role in state administration. They had the foresight to draft a Constitution that still resonates with the realities of our country. But alas, they could not have envisaged a day when a few prejudiced individuals would come to occupy such an 'exalted' constitutional office. And they appear determined to prove how misplaced Dr. Ambedkar's optimism is.

Here, it would not be out of context to refer to the question posed by former President K.R. Narayanan on the 50th anniversary of the Republic: "We have to consider whether it is the Constitution that has failed us or whether it is we who have failed the Constitution."

Correct 'vileness'

In the current debate on the role of Governors, it is certainly the individuals concerned who are failing the Constitution. The phrase in the Constitution requiring Governors to declare their decision 'as soon as possible' is now being interpreted in a contrary manner – 'as late as possible'. This is precisely where the courts were expected to intervene, correctly interpret the spirit of the Constitution and give meaningful effect to its words in the context of India today. Unfortunately, the Court too did not adequately consider Dr. Ambedkar's observation that "if things go wrong under the new Constitution....what we will have to say is that, Man was vile". The courts would be failing in their duty if they do not act to correct such vileness.

India's disaster response, a slippery slope for federalism

Aswathy Rachel Varughese

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The inter-governmental transfer of resources for disaster response reveals a growing asymmetry between the Union and the States of India, reflected in the widening gap between assessed needs and actual disbursements. This imbalance, seen most recently in the Centre's release of funds to Kerala after the Wayanad landslides, raises a critical question. Is India's fiscal federal structure shifting from a cooperative to a more conditional and centralised model of disaster-risk finance?

The tragedy in Wayanad, in July 2024, which claimed nearly 300 lives and destroyed thousands of homes, brought sharp focus to this issue. Against Kerala's loss of ₹2,200 crore, the Union approved only ₹260 crore, barely 11% (₹1,200 crore is the estimated loss while ₹2,200 crore is sought by the State in the memorandum for recovery). This mismatch, not unique to Kerala, signals an erosion of cooperative federalism. Disasters today are fiscal stress tests for States, and as climate shocks intensify, India's disaster-financing framework is showing visible strain.

There is a drift

India's disaster-response financing framework, established under the Disaster Management Act, 2005, rests on a two-tier structure. The State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), financed jointly by the Centre and States in a 75:25 ratio, 90:10 for Himalayan and north-eastern States, provides immediate relief for shelter, food, medical care and compensation. The National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), fully funded by the Union government, supplements this when a calamity is classified as severe. In principle, the design appears balanced, but in practice, it has drifted towards central control.

First, relief norms are outdated and rigid. Compensation ceilings, ₹4 lakh for each life lost and ₹1.2 lakh for a fully damaged house have barely changed in a decade. These amounts meet subsistence needs but not reconstruction costs, leaving States fiscally exposed after every disaster.

Second, ambiguity in classification invites discretion. The Act does not define what constitutes a 'severe' disaster, giving wide latitude to decide eligibility for NDRF aid.

There is evidence of a more conditional and centralised model of a disaster response financing system

Third, aid releases are procedural, not automatic. Unlike systems where objective indicators trigger support, India's process depends on sequential clearances, State memorandum, central assessment, and high-level approval which cause delays when urgency matters the most.

Finally, the Finance Commission's allocation criteria are weak. Using population and total geographical area to gauge exposure ignores actual hazard patterns. Further, the disaster vulnerability is proxied by poverty rather than a robust disaster-risk index, producing allocations that are misaligned with people's real exposure to floods, landslides or cyclones.

The Wayanad episode exposed deep institutional flaws. The Centre cited Kerala's unspent SDRF balance of ₹780 crore and an earlier ₹529 crore interest-free loan under the Capital Investment Scheme to justify the cutting of aid. Yet, these balances often reflect committed works, not idle funds. SDRF instalments arrive late in the fiscal year, while disasters are seasonal, making temporary balances inevitable. Moreover, SDRF rules restrict spending to immediate relief, not reconstruction or livelihood restoration, forcing States to retain reserves for liquidity.

Further, the Centre delayed classifying the Wayanad landslides as a severe disaster, limiting Kerala's access to higher NDRF support. States such as Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Assam received larger packages for comparable calamities. Similar mismatches marked Tamil Nadu after Cyclone Gaja (2018) and Karnataka during the 2019 floods. Across cases, procedural rigidity, slow approvals, and widening gaps between losses and aid reveal a system where cooperative federalism has yielded to bureaucratic negotiation.

Learning from global practices

Many countries now use data-driven, transparent disaster financing. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) of the United States applies per capita damage thresholds. Mexico's former FONDEN (fund for natural disasters) released funds automatically when rainfall or wind limits were exceeded. The Philippines triggers quick-response funds through rainfall and fatality indices, while African and Caribbean insurance facilities use satellite data for rapid payouts. Australia links federal aid to a state's relief spending relative to revenue. These systems replace discretion with clear rules, proving that relief can be swift and accountable. India could adopt similar objective triggers such as rainfall intensity, fatalities per million, or loss-to-GSDP ratio to reduce delay, discretion, and restore trust in federal transfers.

Rebuilding the federal spirit

The Sixteenth Finance Commission has an opportunity to reframe this architecture. It can update relief norms to reflect current costs, revise allocation criteria using a comprehensive vulnerability index, and ensure that disaster assistance remains grant-based rather than debt-based. States must have operational control over their disaster funds, with the Union's role confined to post-audit verification instead of prior approval. This reform is not about weakening central oversight but about strengthening federal functionality. A system that enables quick, rules-based responses will serve both tiers of government and, most importantly, citizens far better than one that is mired in procedural red tape.

Disasters expose not only physical vulnerabilities but also institutional ones. When relief turns into negotiation instead of solidarity, fiscal federalism itself comes under strain. India's disaster-financing system must evolve from procedural charity to a rules-based partnership.

The next flood or landslide should not leave States pleading for what the Constitution already guarantees a cooperative, equitable, and timely response. If federalism falters in crisis, it fails when it matters most. The Wayanad tragedy is a warning. Before the next storm arrives, India needs to rebuild the fiscal foundations of its disaster relief.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Clean electoral rolls

There is no doubt that there is a need for 'accuracy in electoral rolls', which can be achieved only through joint efforts by the Election Commission of India (ECI), political parties and people in general. Occasional Special Intensive Revisions of electoral rolls are intended to eliminate errors and bring in more accuracy. So, it should be a continuing process. It can never be the sole burden of ECI, and, in this, the mainstream political parties should try and help the ECI to a large extent.

In this context, some political parties should introspect on their present attitude as the situation now appears to be one of pure power politics. Ultimately, what is required are lists with the names of genuine voters and citizens of this country.

P.R.V. Raja,
Pandalam, Kerala

An officer's dismissal

Despite our religious persuasions, we in India have always enjoyed how a secular democracy has protected us from threatening situations caused by religion, caste or creed. Under such circumstances, our defence personnel should also be given religious freedom based on their personal convictions. If an agnostic or an atheist too has his freedom to choose not to enter a religious place on the basis of his belief system, there can be no law framed to penalise him.

It is startling that the court verdict appears to have trampled on an individual's freedom of religion. We now live in times where there is apprehension about freedoms.

Joshua Dhanabalan,
Chennai

A train journey

My wife and I travelled on a Vande Bharat train, for the first time, from Tiruchi to Bengaluru Cant. We are octogenarians. The train is an excellent mode of travel. But, unfortunately, the destination station is not up to the mark. There was utter chaos at the narrow exit outlet provided as the station is undergoing modifications. There were no battery-operated platform cars. On the return journey, the train was scheduled to leave from platform 1B, at 1.30 p.m. but when it arrived 10 minutes late, it was on platform 3. Passengers rushed only to find that after cleaning, the train was moved back to platform 1 and departed 30 minutes late. There needs to be a help desk for passengers.

V.K. Gopalan,
Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu

Corrections & Clarifications

The expansion of the acronym, BLO, is Booth Level Officer, and not Block Level Officer, as mentioned in the Editorial, "Burden of proof" (November 28, 2025).

It is the Punchhi Commission, and not the Sarkaria Commission, which recommended a six-month timeline for the Governor to act on Bills ("Blow to States", Editorial, November 22, 2025).

E-mail:readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

Rakesh, a prisoner who was on death row, says he did not know for the longest time that the police had charged him with killing his own family. Now out of prison, he works as a daily wage labourer and wants to save money and rebuild the wall of his house. AARATRIKA BHAUMIK

A new lease of life under the sun

For the third consecutive year, the Supreme Court has not confirmed a single death sentence. This year alone, the Court has acquitted nine prisoners on death row, commuted five death sentences to life imprisonment, and remanded two cases to the trial courts for fresh consideration. **Aaratrika Bhaumik** reports on those who have been acquitted, and whose stories underline how the justice system can condemn innocent people to death

For over a decade, Kailash, 70, lived with the dread that he would outlive his son, who had been sentenced to death. In his dilapidated two-room house in a north Indian village, the cracked and flaking walls mirror the long vigil in their slow decay.

As the seasons passed, Kailash's body, too, became a battleground. A kidney ailment left him incontinent and in constant pain. But when his son returned home following his acquittal, after more than 11 years in incarceration, Kailash finally underwent the surgery he had long deferred.

Kailash's daughter, Sangeeta, 35, who tended to him through nights of agony, recalls those years with a shudder. "My father would scream until dawn," she says. "We were helpless. He finally got relief when my brother returned and made sure the surgery happened."

The family's lives came undone on a cold December morning more than 11 years ago when their sole breadwinner, Rakesh, then in his 20s, was arrested and accused by the police of murdering his wife and two infant sons. "He was not at home when the murder happened," his sister says. Yet, a trial court sentenced him to death, and the High Court later affirmed this.

In July, the Supreme Court acquitted him of all charges and ordered his immediate release. In a scathing indictment of the prosecution, the Court found the case marred by grave investigative lapses and a poorly conducted trial. It flagged glaring inconsistencies in witness testimonies and noted that even the process of collecting evidence had been compromised.

Rakesh's acquittal is part of a disconcerting pattern. For the third consecutive year, the Supreme Court has not confirmed a single death sentence. This year alone, it has acquitted nine prisoners on death row, commuted five death sentences to life imprisonment, and remanded two cases to the trial courts for fresh consideration, while repeatedly flagging grave investigative and evidentiary lapses. It has also remitted one case to the trial court for the re-examination of a witness.

Winter is coming

A few hundred kilometres away, in a town in Uttar Pradesh, Krishna, 55, sits on a pavement. There hangs the smell of snacks frying, vegetables rotting, and fumes in the air. At his feet lies a thin blanket that another beggar pressed into his hands two nights ago. "Winter is coming," he says, pulling it to his chest. "I am dreading it."

He picks at the dry skin on his palms, a habit that he has carried from prison into the world outside. His voice drops as his eyes sweep the line of men huddled along the pavement. "I never mention it," he murmurs. "If they learn I was on death row, they will keep their distance. Out here, you survive only if people stay close. Nights can turn dangerous."

Krishna spent 12 years, eight months, and nine days under the cold shadow of the gallows. His nightmare began 15 years ago, he says, when masked men burst into his two-room mud-brick house and slaughtered his wife and two young children. "I can still hear their screams when I close my eyes. My wife died trying to shield our children," he says. A single blow to his head left him with an injury so severe that he still feels pain whenever he steps into the sun. "Blood was pouring into my eyes. I thought I would die."

> The police took us away just like that. No explanation. No evidence shown. In a single night, the only three earning members of my family were gone.
> MANOJ

Yet, he somehow managed to scramble over the boundary wall with his 10-year-old son – the only other life spared that night. "I don't know how we made it out alive," he says.

Days later, the police accused him of murdering his family. "They told me the jeep was taking me to a hospital," he recalls. "I was bleeding; everything felt blurry. I believed them. But instead of a doctor, it was a prison cell that greeted me."

In 2022, the Supreme Court set him free, observing that the prosecution's case, which it said was built entirely on an uncorroborated extra-judicial confession, had collapsed under the weight of serious evidentiary lapses. However grave or heinous the offence, a death sentence cannot be sustained without cogent and unimpeachable proof, the Court said.

Krishna's son was brought up by a neighbour, he says. His son is working now but doesn't financially support or keep in touch with his father.

A night that changed everything

In a quiet residential neighbourhood in a Madhya Pradesh town, 30-year-old Manoj sits outside his modest single-storey home. "I was 18 when I was arrested," he says. He was accused, along with his father and uncle, of kidnapping and killing a 13-year-old neighbour for ransom.

One evening in 2013, barely a fortnight after the boy had gone missing, the police arrived. "They took us away just like that," he says, snapping his fingers. "No explanation. No evidence shown. In a single night, the only three earning members of my family were gone."

A man who was on death row and was acquitted by the apex court. AARATRIKA BHAUMIK

Left behind were his younger siblings – a 13-year-old brother and a 14-year-old sister. "There was no one left to earn after that," he says quietly. "My family went days without food." The teenagers were forced to drop out of school soon after. His sister began working as a household help while his brother took up shifts at a nearby construction site. "That is my biggest regret," Manoj says. "That they had to abandon their studies because of me."

Manoj spent 10 years behind bars. While his father was sentenced to life imprisonment, he and his uncle were sent to death row. In 2023, the Supreme Court acquitted all three, pointing to glaring investigative lapses, including the police's failure to examine the original owner of the SIM card allegedly used for the ransom call. The court stressed the urgent need for an investigative code that could prevent prosecutions from collapsing under the weight of policing errors.

Botched investigations

Anup Surendranath, executive director of The Square Circle Clinic at NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad, which has represented six of the death-row prisoners acquitted this year, says, "Courts are finally paying closer attention to crucial details in death penalty cases." Most death-row prisoners, he notes, hail from marginalised backgrounds and lack effective legal representation, making rigorous appellate scrutiny indispensable. "It is deeply worrying that investigating agencies continue to commit grave procedural violations in the collection of evidence – a pattern the Supreme Court has had to flag time and again," he adds.

Earlier this month, the Supreme Court acquitted Surendra Koli, the prime accused in the 2006 Nithari killings, in the last remaining case where his conviction and life sentence had remained in force. To set him free after nearly two decades, the Court invoked its extraordinary curative jurisdiction to overturn its own earlier ruling. This is a remedy reserved for exceptional situations involving grave procedural lapses or denial of natural justice. The judges called the probe "botched" and noted, among other lapses, that investigators had ignored the possibility of an organ-trade angle flagged earlier by a committee set up by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

Yug Chaudhry, a Mumbai-based senior advocate who specialises in death penalty litigation and who represented Koli, says the case is a cautionary tale about the perils of a justice system vulnerable to media trials and is a compelling indictment of the death penalty itself. "It shows how easily, in heinous offences built on circumstantial evidence, investigations can be manipulated to construct a narrative that evades judicial scrutiny," he says. "Koli spent 19 years in custody for crimes he did not commit. He was sentenced to death and twice taken to the gallows for execution, only to be saved in the nick of time."

"The consequences of this kind of injustice are devastating," Yug adds. "He was branded a cannibal. His wife left him. His children grew up, too ashamed to acknowledge their parentage. His brothers were frightened to visit him, lest they be tainted by association. And all of this, for what crime? For the worst crime a person can commit in this country. He was born poor."

Manoj, who spent the entirety of his 20s behind bars, still shivers when his fingers trace the deep scars along his elbows and the side of his neck. "The police hit us brutally in custody," he says. "My father and uncle, too, were humiliated and assaulted. We kept saying we were innocent, but it felt like speaking into an abyss."

"One day, the police slid a stack of blank sheets across the table and told us to sign," he says. "They said the torture would get worse if we refused." His gaze drops, the words thinning to a whisper. "So we signed out of fear. Only later did I understand that those blank pages would be filled in and turned into evidence against us."

> Sometimes it is hard to believe that I am free. I can feel the sunshine again. There are no curfews. No one tells me when I can speak to my family.
> RAKESH

"The courts demand exceptionally strong evidence before they agree to send someone to the gallows. But the police often fall short," says Sulkhan Singh, former Director General of Police, Uttar Pradesh. "In many cases, the handling of evidence is not properly recorded. Every movement of a piece of evidence, from the moment it is collected to when it is presented in court, has to be documented. If this trail breaks anywhere, the evidence loses credibility. This is where the police struggle."

He also points to the Supreme Court's 2006 ruling in *Prakash Singh v. Union of India*, which prescribed sweeping police reforms, from separating law-and-order duties from investigation to establishing independent oversight bodies insulated from executive interference. "It has been almost 20 years, yet most of these reforms remain only on paper," he says.

When legal aid is out of reach

Like Manoj, Rakesh too found himself weathering an unforgiving system alone. Arrested while his father watched helplessly, he says he did not even know for the longest time that the police had charged him with killing his own family. "I only learned much later what they had accused me of," he says. Although a legal-aid lawyer had been formally appointed, Rakesh recalls that the counsel failed to appear for several crucial hearings during the trial.

Left without any effective representation, his family stepped in. "My father and sister sold whatever we had, jewellery, small pieces of land, to find a lawyer who would actually take up my case," he says. "After that, nearly everything we owned was gone."

Then came the blow that, he says, "broke something inside" him. His elder brother, a daily-wage labourer, collapsed and died of a heart attack. "All I wanted was to see his face one last time," Rakesh says. He asked fellow inmates how he might seek temporary release for the funeral rites, and then approached the jail authorities in desperation. "I even went to the jail superintendents, but they refused. They said I would have to move the High Court for it," he recalls. "I didn't even know how to begin."

Experiences like his lay bare the chronic lack of accountability within legal-aid institutions, says Anup. "Unfortunately, the prevailing attitude is that simply providing legal aid is enough. It is not. We need mechanisms to review performance and clear quality standards that ensure competent representation. To me, this is an institutional failure," he adds.

For Rakesh, the first time he did not feel invisibilised by the rigours of the system came years after his arrest – during the mitigation process, which documents the life history of the accused to help courts assess their capacity for reformation and determine the appropriate sentence. "The investigators sat with me for hours," he recalls. "They spoke to my family, to people who had known me since I was a child... It was the first time in years that anyone seemed interested in who I was, beyond the allegations stamped against my name."

Komal, a mitigation investigator with The Square Circle Clinic, recalls preparing Rakesh's report. "I realised how deeply his faith anchored him, how it helped him endure years of wrongful incarceration," she says. "He held a steady belief that God would protect him from injustice, and that he had to live a conscientious life in return."

But the work, she adds, comes with profound ethical challenges. "It requires the accused and their families to revisit their lives in painful detail. Often, what they share is deeply private and distressing," she says. "We are sometimes conflicted, because parts of those disclosures may have to be placed before the court and made public."

Rebuilding lives

Krishna says his survival rests on the small generosities of strangers. "Some days, I don't eat at all," he admits. After his release, he tried working at a construction site, hoping to stitch together some semblance of a life. But his old head injury stood in the way. "I couldn't lift anything," he says. He pulls his blanket tighter around himself. "In prison, I at least had two meals and a roof."

Now back in his village, Rakesh is still learning how to inhabit freedom. "Sometimes it is hard to believe that I am free," he says. "I can feel the sunshine again. There are no curfews. No one tells me when I can speak to my family."

His home is a single-storey structure with a roof that has slowly caved in after years of neglect. A straw cot lies in the courtyard for his father. One section of the outer wall has crumbled. "Now that I have a second chance at life, I want to rebuild that wall," Rakesh says. "I hardly spend on myself. I save every rupee". Soon after his release, he found work as a daily-wage labourer.

"Compensation should be given to people like us so that we can begin rebuilding our lives," he says. "The years won't come back, the humiliation won't disappear. But compensation can soften the blow a little and remind the police that throwing someone behind bars cannot come without consequences."

India has no statute recognising a right to compensation for wrongful convictions. In October, the Supreme Court sought the Centre's response to three petitions filed by former death-row prisoners who spent decades in incarceration before being acquitted earlier this year. Citing a violation of constitutional guarantees, they are now seeking compensation for the years lost.

(The names of former death-row prisoners and their family members have been changed to protect their identities)

From Page One

India's Q2 GDP growth at a major high of 8.2%

Speaking at a press briefing, chief economic adviser V. Anantha Nageswaran said that the economic performance in Q2 has induced the government to revise upwards its full-year growth estimate to "7% or higher".

"The confluence of stable inflation, sustained public capex, and reform momentum positions the economy to navigate risks, as reflected in upward revisions to FY26 growth projections by various agencies," Mr. Nageswaran said.

The manufacturing sector grew at a six-quarter high of 9.1% in Q2 of 2025-26, up from 7.7% in Q1. While some of this was genuine growth, the sector's performance was also bolstered by a low base effect. "Manufacturing growth of 9.1% can be corroborated by double-digit growth witnessed in corporate performance in this quarter," Mr. Sabnavis said. "A low base effect of 2.1% has also helped to push up the number."

The aggregate services sector, too, grew at a relatively robust 9.2% in Q2 of this financial year, which came on a high base of 7.2% in Q2 last year. Looking deeper, the "financial services, real estate and professional services" sub-sector grew at a nine-quarter high of 10.2%. This was followed by the "public administration, defence and other services" sub-sector, which grew at 9.7%.

The 9.7% surge in the public administration, defence and other services segment in Q2 FY2026 was quite surprising given that the Government of India's (GoI's) non-interest revenue expenditure had contracted by a sharp 11.2% Year-over-Year (YoY) in the quarter, as against the 6.9% uptick seen in Q1 FY2026. The agriculture sector grew at 3.5% in Q2 of 2025-26, down from the 4.1% seen in Q2 of last year, and the 3.7% in Q1 of this year.

Opposition criticism

"It is ironic that the quarterly GDP numbers have been released very soon after an IMF report gave the second-lowest grade of C to India's national accounts statistics in its annual assessment of the Indian economy," Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh posed on X.

Mr. Ramesh added that the GDP figures are disappointing, especially due to the performance of capital investment and the usage of a low GDP deflator. "There has been no upswing in Gross Fixed Capital Formation," Mr. Ramesh said. "High GDP growth rates are simply not sustainable in the absence of any renewed momentum in private investment. That is clearly not in evidence."

"The unrealistically low GDP deflator – which implies an inflation rate of only 0.5% – is at complete variance with the experiences of crores of households burdened by crushing price rise in their items of daily consumption," he added.

Trump says he will stop 'Third World' migration

He linked the shooting and his decision to send hundreds of National Guard troops to the city. "If they weren't effective, you probably wouldn't have had this done," Mr. Trump said. "Maybe this man was upset because he couldn't practise crime."

Joseph Edlow, Mr. Trump's director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, said on Thursday he had ordered a "full-scale, rigorous re-examination of every Green Card for every alien from every country of concern".

His agency later pointed to a list of 19 countries – including Afghanistan, Cuba, Haiti, Iran and Myanmar – facing U.S. travel restrictions under a previous order from Mr. Trump in June.

More than 1.6 million U.S. green card holders, roughly 12% of the total permanent resident population, were born in the countries listed, according to the latest immigration data available on the agency's "Eligible to Naturalize Dashboard".

Cuba accounts for the largest share, with about 5,60,000 Green Card holders, followed by Haiti (2,35,000) and Venezuela (1,53,000).

Afghanistan, which has over 1,16,000 Green Card holders, is also affected by a total halt of immigration application processing, ordered by the Trump administration after the shooting.

The other soldier wounded in Wednesday's attack, 24-year-old Andrew Wolfe, was "fighting for his life", Mr. Trump said.

Nearly 100 killed as cyclone hits Sri Lanka

Compensation of LKR 1 million (roughly ₹2,90,000) from the President's Fund will be paid to the families of those who lost their lives. Further, President Dissanayake directed tourism authorities to ensure essential services are available for foreign tourists affected by the severe weather. Aviation authorities said some flight schedules have been disrupted.

Harrowing accounts of cars veering off roads and falling into waterways, families stuck on roads overnight, or climbing onto rooftops to survive the night amid rapidly rising water levels are being shared on social media, as authorities struggle to respond to what appears to be Sri Lanka's worst rains in recent years. As rivers overflow and water levels in reservoirs increase, authorities have also issued flood warnings in the island's southern districts.

Schools have been ordered to remain closed, while authorities declared a holiday for government offices, barring essential services, on Friday.

Local body elections in Maharashtra, stalled since 2022, get SC green light

Bench led by Chief Justice passes the order as an interim measure following a dispute over OBC representation in local bodies; SC says grassroots institutions must be revived, but directs that reservation in such bodies must not exceed 50%

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday gave the green signal for holding Maharashtra local bodies elections, stalled since 2022, in a move to revive grassroots democracy in the State and transfer the running of panchayati raj institutions from bureaucrats to elected representatives.

A Bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi passed the order as an interim measure in a prolonged dispute over the political representation of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in local bodies.

The court was hearing petitions claiming that the State's decision to allow 27% reservation to OBCs, on the basis of the J.K. Banthia Commission report, had led to the aggregate quota in several poll-bound local bodies crossing the 50% cut off mark.

> In respect of the 32 zilla parishads and 336 panchayat samitis, it is directed that wherever the reservation does not exceed the 50% mark, let the elections be held in accordance with our previous orders
>
> **BENCH OF CJI SURYA KANT AND JUSTICE JOYMALYA BAGCHI**
> Supreme Court

The Maharashtra State Election Commission, represented by senior advocate Balbir Singh, informed the court that reservation exceeded 50% in 40 out of the 246 municipal councils and 17 of the 42 nagar panchayats due for polls on December 2.

The Bench ordered that elections to these bodies should go ahead according to the notified election schedule. However, the court clarified that the results in the 40 municipal councils and 17 nagar panchayats, where reservation breached the 50% limit, would be subject to the final outcome of the current proceedings.

Next hearing in January

The court directed that the case be placed before a three-judge Bench on the next date of hearing on January 21, 2026. The Bench had previously remarked that it would look into whether the "grey areas" around the 50% cut off on reservation in local bodies elections ought to be referred to a Constitution Bench. The court had also asked whether "service jurisprudence" ought to be applied to elections.

The Maharashtra State Election Commission further informed the court that the election process to 29 municipal corporations, 32 zilla panchayats and 336 panchayat samitis in the State had not yet commenced.

The court directed that the Maharashtra State Election Commission and the State government could initiate the election process in these three categories of local bodies. However, the reservation in them must not exceed 50%.

As far as municipal corporations were concerned, the court was apprised that only two of the 29 municipal corporations exceeded the 50% ceiling in reservation. Taking note of the submission, the court ordered that elections to these bodies be notified without any delay and polls be held. It said the results of the two municipal corporations, where reservation exceeded 50%, would be subject to the outcome of the top court proceedings.

"Lastly, in respect of the 32 zilla parishads and 336 panchayat samitis, it is directed that wherever the reservation does not exceed the 50% mark, let the elections be held in accordance with our previous orders," the court ordered.

"Institutions at the grassroots level have to be revived. People are not getting their representatives in the local bodies. All of them are being run by bureaucrats. We will allow the elections to be held," Chief Justice Kant had clarified in an earlier hearing in November.

Shah calls for coordinated effort against narcotics

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said security forces and police are effectively combating extremism, radicalisation and narcotics by focusing on precise intelligence, clarity of objectives, and synergy in action.

Law enforcement agencies must launch a 360-degree attack on narcotics and organised crime and build such a system that criminals do not get any leeway, Mr. Shah said.

The Home Minister was speaking at the three-day 60th Director General of Police Conference organised by the Intelligence Bureau in Raipur. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the conference over the next two days. "The Modi Government has provided permanent solutions to the three major challenges – Naxalism, the North-East, and Jammu & Kashmir. Soon these regions will be like the rest of the country," Mr. Shah said.

HC quashes Lokpal proceedings against Defence Secretary

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Rajesh Kumar Singh

The Delhi High Court on Friday quashed the proceedings initiated by the Lokpal of India against Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh in a case related to alleged irregularities in promotions at the National Productivity Council (NPC).

A Division Bench passed the orders on a plea filed by Mr. Singh and others who were accused in this case.

The complainant had alleged irregularities in promotions conducted by the NPC on March 28, 2023 on which the Lokpal has issued inquiry orders. Mr. Singh, in his plea, had contended that the promotions in question were done before he assumed the office of Secretary of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) on April 21, 2023.

Mr. Singh stated that Lokpal's actions were beyond its jurisdiction since the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013, mandates that complaints must involve allegations of corruption or offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act.

Mr. Singh, an IAS officer of the 1989 Kerala cadre, later took charge as India's 40th Defence Secretary on November 1, 2024.

India, Russia Defence Ministers to meet, S-500 acquisition on agenda

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

The Defence Ministers of India and Russia are set to meet on December 4 in New Delhi on the sidelines of Russian President Vladimir Putin's state visit to India.

A senior official confirmed that Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will hold talks with his Russian counterpart Andrey Belousov to review ongoing defence cooperation and explore new avenues of partnership.

Acquiring S-500

According to the official, the agenda includes discussions on the timely delivery of remaining S-400 air defence systems. India is also likely to examine the possibility of acquiring additional S-400 units as well as Russia's next-generation S-500 system – capable of intercepting ballistic missiles at ranges up to 600 km and airborne targets up to 400 km.

Russian Defence Minister Andrei Belousov, left, and Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in Moscow in 2024. AP

The meeting is also expected to take up cooperation in shipbuilding and jointly developed weapons systems, an area both sides are looking to strengthen further.

In June this year, Mr. Singh and Mr. Belousov met in Qingdao, China, where Moscow reaffirmed its commitment to timely S-400 deliveries. India had placed an initial order for five S-400 units, of which three have been delivered. The remaining two are scheduled for delivery in 2026 and 2027.

The S-400 system has proved its strategic significance in recent Indian operations, including Operation Sindoor, and has been officially designated 'Sudarshan Chakra' in Indian service – after the mythological weapon of Lord Vishnu.

The Ministry of Defence has also identified an Indian firm to set up a Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facility for the S-400 system in the country.

Addressing a public gathering in Karnataka on Friday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi elaborated on the vision of Mission Sudarshan Chakra, stating that it aims to build an impenetrable protective wall around key national, industrial and public sector assets. "If the enemy dares to show audacity, India's Sudarshan Chakra will destroy them," the Prime Minister said.

Earlier, during his Independence Day address, Mr. Modi had announced the ambitious 'Sudarshan Chakra Mission', a decade-long initiative to bolster India's national security architecture.

India launches 'Operation Sagar Bandhu' to provide relief supplies to Sri Lanka

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

India on Friday delivered essential relief supplies to cyclone-battered Sri Lanka with Prime Minister Narendra Modi conveying to the island nation that New Delhi stands ready provide more aid to it to deal with the situation.

New Delhi launched "Operation Sagar Bandhu" to assist Sri Lanka in its hour of crisis and the first tranche of relief materials were handed after the consignments were transported by Indian Navy's aircraft carrier *INS Vikrant* and frontline ship *INS Udaygiri*.

"My heartfelt condolences to the people of Sri Lanka who have lost their loved ones due to Cyclone Ditwah. I pray for the safety, comfort and swift recovery of all affected families," Mr. Modi said on social media."Guided by India's Neighbourhood First policy and Vision MAHASAGAR, India continues to stand firmly with Sri Lanka in its hour of need," he added.

Navy officers handing over humanitarian aid from India to Sri Lanka as part of 'Operation Sagar Bandhu' in Colombo. PTI

Mr. Modi announced the MAHASAGAR (Mutual And Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions) vision for India's engagement with the Global South during his visit to Mauritius in March.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said that Operation Sagar Bandhu had commenced and further steps were under way.

India's first indigenous aircraft carrier *INS Vikrant*, and latest indigenous stealth frigate *INS Udaygiri* are in Sri Lanka to participate at a three-day International Fleet Review (IFR) that began on Thursday.

Sri Lankan defence officials said *INS Vikrant* was formally requested for use of its aircraft for relief operations.

Court rejects Mehul Choksi's plea to halt FEO proceedings

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

In a setback to absconding diamond trader Mehul Choksi, a prime accused in the Punjab National Bank (PNB) fraud case, a special court here on Friday rejected his plea seeking to drop the proceedings declaring him a fugitive economic offender (FEO).

Following his arrest in Belgium in April this year, Mr. Choksi had moved the plea before the special court hearing cases under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) to dismiss the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) application to declare him an FEO.

Mr. Choksi had pleaded that since he was currently in custody for cases pending in India, for which an extradition request was made by the Indian authorities in Belgium, the application filed by the ED to declare him an FEO deserved to be dismissed.

Mehul Choksi

The ED had opposed his plea saying Mr. Choksi did not want to return to India as he was fighting extradition proceedings initiated against him in Belgium. It argued that the proceedings terminate only when an absconding accused appears. It said that there were no merits in the plea.

Under the FEO Act, a person can be declared an FEO if a warrant has been issued against him for an offence involving an amount of ₹100 crore or more and he has left the country and refuses to return.

India seals deal with U.S. on support for Seahawks

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

India on Friday sealed a ₹7,995 crore deal with the U.S. as part of "follow on support" package for Indian Navy's fleet of 24 Seahawk helicopters for five years. The signing of the contract came amid strain in ties between the two countries after U.S. President Donald Trump slapped a whopping 50% tariff on Indian goods in late August.

The Defence Ministry said it signed Letters of Offer and Acceptance (LOAs) with the U.S. for sustained support of the MH-60R helicopter fleet through follow-on support and supply for five years.

The sustainment support is a comprehensive package which includes provisioning of spares, support equipment, product support, training and technical support, repair and replenishment of components, the Ministry said.

BLO dies in Gujarat; Opposition cites strain

The Hindu Bureau
AHMEDABAD

A 50-year-old government school teacher assigned as a booth-level officer (BLO) for the ongoing special intensive revision of electoral rolls died of cardiac attack in Mehsana district of Gujarat early on Friday.

According to the police, Dinesh Raval from Sudasana village fell ill on Thursday night. "He was taken to the government hospital in Vadnagar, where he was declared dead. The post-mortem has confirmed cardiac arrest as the cause," said Sub-Inspector Udaysinh Zala of Satlasana police station. He added that neither Mr. Raval's family nor colleagues had made any complaint regarding working conditions.

While the police maintained there was no indication of external pressure, Opposition parties and teacher organisations claimed that the SIR had caused severe strain on teaching staff. Congress spokesperson Manish Doshi said that with inadequate support, the BLOs were struggling to meet deadlines. Two similar incidents were reported earlier this month.

SIR is meant to drive out Bengalis, says Trinamool

Delegation of party MPs meets EC and flags 40 'SIR-related' deaths in State; MP Derek O'Brien says EC didn't answer any of its five questions, while poll panel terms Trinamool's allegations 'baseless'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Trinamool MPs Mahua Moitra, Satabdi Roy, Derek O'Brien, and others after a meeting with the EC in Delhi on Friday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

The special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in West Bengal is an exclusionary exercise to "quietly push Bengalis out", a delegation of 10 Trinamool Congress MPs told the full bench of the Election Commission on Friday.

The delegation also flagged around 40 "SIR-related" deaths in the State, accusing the poll panel chief of having "blood on his hands".

The Election Commission (EC) is currently conducting the SIR in nine States, including West Bengal, and three Union Territories, after having completed the contentious exercise in Bihar.

The Trinamool delegation, led by the party's Rajya Sabha leader Derek O'Brien, comprised Lok Sabha MPs Mahua Moitra, Satabdi Roy, Kalyan Banerjee, Pratima Mondal, and Sajda Ahmed, and Rajya Sabha MPs Dola Sen, Mamata Thakur, Saket Gokhale, and Prakash Chik Barik. Following the meeting, Mr. O'Brien told journalists that the party had raised five questions, but Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar did not respond to any of them.

"We started the meeting by stating that the CEC has blood on his hands," Mr. O'Brien said.

'Border States omitted'

The delegation said that if infiltration was the issue that the SIR sought to address, why were border States such as Tripura, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, and Manipur been omitted? In Assam too, the EC had settled for a "special revision" instead of the SIR, the MPs pointed out.

Ms. Moitra said the delegation shared with the CEC a list of 40 people whose deaths were allegedly linked to the SIR exercise. The commission, however, dismissed it as mere allegations, the Lok Sabha MP claimed.

If the same electoral rolls were good enough to elect Lok Sabha MPs in 2024, how did they suddenly become "unreliable" within a year, the delegation asked. The MPs also expressed worries about the "neutrality" and "effectiveness" of the SIR process and noted a recent amendment in the rules by the poll panel that allows for the appointment of "external" booth-level agents (BLAs). They also asked who would take responsibility for the alleged deaths linked to the SIR process.

EC response

Later in the evening, a senior EC official said the poll body had provided "a point-wise rebuttal" of all the apprehensions and "baseless allegations" levelled by the Trinamool.

"EC further requested them to give claims and objections after December 9, when the draft list is shared with them. Till then, they should not interfere with the independent functioning of BLOs, EROs and DEOs who are State government employees on deputation for election-related works," the senior EC official said.

The poll body has also directed the DGP of West Bengal and the Kolkata Police Commissioner to ensure that booth-level officers are not pressurised and threatened by political party workers.

Rahul calls for a debate on air pollution in Parliament, says Modi govt. sitting idle

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Rahul Gandhi interacts with women who told him how their children are struggling to breathe in the polluted capital. @INCINDIA

The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on Friday called for an immediate, detailed debate in Parliament on air pollution, and a strict action plan to tackle the "health emergency".

Mr. Gandhi said he met with a group of mothers who shared with him how their children are exhausted, scared and angry as they are growing up breathing the toxic air in Delhi. Taking to X, he wrote "Modi*ji*, India's children are choking in front of us. How can you stay silent? Why does your government show no urgency, no plan, no accountability?" He added that our children "deserve clean air - not excuses and distractions".

The call for a debate comes ahead of the Winter Session of Parliament and at a time when several parts of north India, the National Capital Region in particular, is under a blanket of smog, with doctors warning of adverse health complications. Mr. Gandhi met with a group of mothers at his residence and shared video snippets of the interaction in which they questioned why air pollution has never been declared an emergency despite having such adverse impact on health.

"Small children are falling prey to lung diseases, heart conditions, and mental illnesses due to the toxic air. But even amidst such a terrifying national disaster, the Modi government is sitting idle with folded hands - and time is slipping rapidly from our grasp," Mr. Gandhi said in his post on X after the interaction. He said that India needed an immediate serious discussion and decisive action on this, "so that our children do not have to struggle even for clean air, but instead grow up in an India that provides them with health, safety, and the full sky to rise and shine".

In the video, the former Congress president is seen telling the concerned mothers that the reason there is pollution is because there are stakeholders who benefit from the pollution. "To put it bluntly they are more powerful than you are," he said.

Protests in capital

Delhi has seen protests from civilians over the past few weeks, demanding steps to tackle the air pollution.

Congress entangled in own struggles, workers unsure of its future: BJP

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Pradeep Bhandari

The Bharatiya Janata Party on Friday claimed that the Congress, united only by "corruption and dynastic politics", was today completely entangled in its own struggles, while its workers were themselves attempting to fulfil a "Congress-*mukt* Bharat".

At a press briefing, BJP spokesperson Pradeep Bhandari said, "In Karnataka, the Chief Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister are busy fighting over their positions. The party workers in Bihar are questioning the Gandhi-Vadra leadership, while also alleging ticket theft, corruption, and manipulation. They are saying that the *vote chori* campaign of the Congress was a flop show in the State. In Jammu & Kashmir, the party is not getting a spokesperson...even the Congress's own workers are questioning the party's politics today."

'Fighting with itself'

Stating that from Karnataka and Bihar to Jammu & Kashmir, the Congress was only "fighting with itself," he claimed that its workers believed that they no longer had any future in the party and the party also had no future prospects under the Gandhi-Vadra family. "This proves what Prime Minister Narendra Modi had earlier said: today Congress workers are doing 'Congress-*mukt* Bharat'."

Will PM raise South Africa's case with Trump: Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

> Will he take up South Africa's cause with his good friend and ensure that it will get to attend the next G20 Summit, as it is perfectly entitled to?
>
> **JAIRAM RAMESH**
> Congress general secretary

The Congress on Friday asked whether Prime Minister Narendra Modi would raise South Africa's case with U.S. President Donald Trump, after Mr. Trump said he would bar the country from participating in next year's G-20 summit in Miami.

The principal Opposition party's query came after Mr. Trump announced that South Africa would not be invited to the 2026 G-20 meeting, accusing Pretoria of mistreating a U.S. government representative at this year's summit and vowing to "stop all payments and subsidies" to the country.

Senior leader Anand Sharma called Mr. Trump's decision "an insult to the African continent and the Global South" and said it violated the G-20's foundational principle of sovereign equality. "India has a moral duty to take a firm position and mobilise the Global South to collectively reject the new imperialism," he said in a post on X.

Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh said South Africa had been a member of the G20 since its inception, not because of any "favour" from the U.S. but because it is the largest African economy by GDP.

"It was very much present at the very first G-20 Summit held in Washington DC that was chaired by President George W. Bush and has been a valued presence in all subsequent summits," he said on X.

He noted that India and South Africa were part of the original BRICS grouping, as well as IBSA and BASIC. "It has often been remarked that an Indian lawyer went to South Africa in the late 19th century and returned home as a revolutionary in the early years of the 20th century to lead India's independence movement," Mr. Ramesh said, invoking Mahatma Gandhi's formative years.

He said India had long been at the forefront of the global struggle against apartheid and shared a historic moral commitment to South Africa. "The Prime Minister is the self-proclaimed champion of both Africa and the Global South. Will he take up South Africa's cause with his good friend and ensure that it will get to attend the next G-20 Summit, as it is perfectly entitled to?" he asked.

Minister calls for detention room inside Assam House

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Assam is likely to have a detention room for MLAs who are suspended for disrupting the Assembly proceedings.

Speaker Biswajit Daimary on Friday said the House would examine a proposal from Cultural Affairs Minister Bimal Bora for a detention room.

Congress leader Debabrata Saikia criticised the proposal as undemocratic.

2 journalists assaulted in M.P.; 7 booked

The Hindu Bureau
BHOPAL

Two journalists were beaten up in Madhya Pradesh's Indore on Friday, while reporting on alleged corruption in the RTO office, the police said, adding that seven people have been booked in the case.

VISAKHAPATNAM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT | GMR
Invitation For Request For Proposal (RFP) For Development Of A Residential Apartment Project At Bhogapuram International Airport, Andhra Pradesh
GMR Visakhapatnam International Airport Limited (GVIAL), invites applications from entities with relevant experience to participate in the competitive bidding process for grant of right to design, build, finance, develop and transfer a Residential Apartment Project at GMR Aerocity, Bhogapuram International Airport, Andhra Pradesh, India on 17.46ac of land leased till 13th December 2122. Interested applicants may visit our website **https://gmrvisakhapatnamairport.com/tender.aspx**, to procure a copy of the RFP and write to **gviaLald@gmrgroup.in** for any queries.
VIA/18/PREM ASSOCIATES

RAJASTHAN SAMWAD
Department of Information and Public Relations, Government Secretariat, Jaipur-302005
(Telephone & Fax No. 0141- 2227057, E-mail id :- dipr.rajasthan@gmail.com, eproc.dipr@gmail.com)
SHORT NOTICE INVITING BIDS
NIB No. 113 Date : 28/11/2025
Bids for **Rate Contract of Services of LED Mobile Van** are invited from interested bidders up to 09:00 AM 08/12/2025. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (**http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in**) of the state; and **https://dipr.rajasthan.gov.in/**. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 15 Crore.
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Managing Director
Rajasthan Samwad, Jaipur
Raj.Samwad/C/25/14840

RAJASTHAN STATE HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY
(A body constituted under Rajasthan State Highways Act, 2014)
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E-mail:ho.rsha@rajasthan.gov.in
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INDIRA GANDHI NAHAR PROJECT BIKANER
Email:- acemignp@gmail.com **Telephone : 0151-2226406**
No: 990 **Date: 21.11.2025**
Notice Inviting Bid
Bids for (1) Operation & Maintenance of Pumping station I to V of JNVLC On Contract Basis for 3 year (1073 Days), Supply of spare parts for pump, panel etc. rewinding/servicing of 6.6kv various motors repairing of HT and LT transformers at PS I to V of JNVLC (approx. value Rs. 4.81 Cr.)
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NIB No.: IGB2526A0102
UBIN No.: IGB2526WSOB00477
Additional Chief Engineer (M)
Indira Gandhi Nahar Project
Bikaner
DIPR/C/17448/2025

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT PRASARAN NIGAM LIMITED
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Online e-bids are invited for construction Work of 132 KV S/C Jobner- Bagru Rwan Line Overhead Line (25km) and Underground Cable (1.5km) with OPGW of Complete Line and Construction of 132 kV, Grid Sub-Stations, Jakhal (Distt-Jhunjhunu) along with its associated line {LILO of 132kV Beri-Bhajangarh (220kV GSS) - Kumawas line (12 kM)}
The detailed NIB and Bid document /specification are available for viewing/downloading on the website **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in.** Details of NIB are available on website **energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rrvpn.**
Any extension in bid submission/opening date (if any) will be floated/uploaded on **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in; energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rrvpn & http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** only.
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INBRIEF

PM Modi unveils 77-foot-tall statue of Lord Ram in Goa

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday unveiled a 77-foot-tall bronze statue of Lord Ram in Goa, as part of Shree Samsthan Gokarn Jeevottam Math's 550th year celebrations. Mr. Modi also visited the temple in the math, located in Partagali, South Goa. The math is among India's oldest monastic institutions, known for its spiritual, cultural, and social contributions and holds a prominent place in the Saraswat community. Sculptor Ram Sutar, who designed the Statue of Unity in Gujarat, has made Lord Ram's statue, said Goa Public Works Department minister Digambar Kamat. Goa Governor Ashok Gajapathi Raju and Chief Minister Pramod Sawant were present at the ceremony. PTI

SC to hear pleas to extend Waqf registration period

The Supreme Court on Friday agreed to hear on December 1 various pleas, including the one filed by All India Muslim Personal Law Board, seeking extension of time for the mandatory registration of all waqf properties, including 'waqf by user', under the UMEED portal. A bench comprising Justices Dipankar Datta and Augustine George Masih took note that the pleas needed to be listed for hearing urgently. "List these applications along with I.A. No...on December 01, 2025," the bench said. According to the mandate of the UMEED portal, it is mandatory to upload the details of all registered waqf properties across India within six months.

Delay in getting syntactic foam hits Samudrayaan

India plans to send a manned submersible 6,000 metres into the ocean, a mission that is crucial to future explorations; a syntactic foam cladding will give the submersible buoyancy, help it float

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

A prototype of the MATSYA 6000, a submersible made by the National Institute of Ocean Technology in Chennai. The final version is expected to undertake a journey to a depth of 6,000 metres. R. RAVINDRAN

A crucial set of tests on the Samudrayaan, India's first manned-submersible dive into the ocean, is likely only mid-next year following a delay in the procurement of syntactic foam cladding from France.

The Samudrayaan consists of a sphere capable of plunging to a depth of 6,000 metres into the ocean. Only a handful of countries have dived to comparable depths. A crew of three will man this submersible, which will descend to the ocean floor, scour it, and collect soil and rock samples. The mission is deemed as pivotal to India's future exploration plans to mine precious metals from the high seas.

As a prelude to this, scientists from the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai, who are leading the project, have built a steel replica of the submersible that is to be used as a simulator for all the tests required prior to the final mission. Though simulations have been conducted on this sphere to depths of 100 metres, a final set of trials – that involves sending the submersible down to 500 metres – is on the anvil. It was originally scheduled for December 2024.

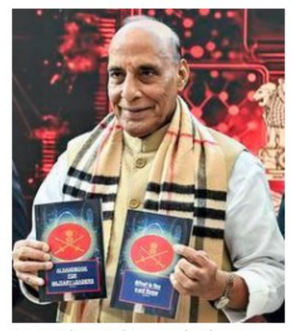
"Before the 500-metre dive, the (steel) submersible has to be fitted with syntactic foam, which is what gives the submersible buoyancy and allows it to float. This is developed in France and being tested in Norway and after that will be fitted onto our submersible," M. Ravichandran, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, told *The Hindu*. The Ministry is the parent body of NIOT. "Hopefully, it should be delivered by the end of the year."

Once these tests are done, the final titanium hull – that will be the one to make the final 6,000-metre dive – will be sent to Russia where it will be tested, in a laboratory, for its ability to withstand the pressure of the ocean at 6,000 metres. "We have already accounted for this but this test is required," he added. The same syntactic foam will be fitted onto the titanium sphere.

The Indian Space Research Organisation is making two titanium hulls for NIOT. "Once these tests are done, we hope to conduct the 500-metre dive by April next year," Mr. Ravichandran added.

Rajnath says India emerging as a global voice of responsibility

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI



Rajnath Singh unveils the 'AI handbook for military leaders'.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday said that India's economic growth, technological progress, and principled foreign policy had positioned it as a "voice of balance and responsibility" amid global flux.

Speaking at the Chanakya Defence Dialogue 2025 in New Delhi, held on the theme "Reform to Transform - *Sashakt, Surakshit, aur Viksit* Bharat", the Minister said nations across the Indo-Pacific and the Global South saw India as a reliable and trusted partner.

He underlined that India was shaping global conversations with "responsibility, strategic autonomy and confidence" rooted in civilisational values. The trust earned internationally, he said, stemmed from path-breaking reforms, India's consistent stand for sovereignty, and commitment to a rules-based order.

Reforms key

Mr. Singh cautioned that an era marked by terrorism, cross-border extremism, attempts to alter the *status quo*, maritime pressures, and information warfare demanded constant vigilance and clarity of purpose. In this environment, reforms were no longer optional but a strategic necessity, strengthening institutions, increasing force agility, and enabling India to shape its own destiny.

Listing the government's key initiatives, he said India was modernising its armed forces, reforming procurement to ensure "speed, transparency and accountability", and building a robust defence industrial ecosystem through Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

Investments in start-ups, deep-tech and research and development were under way to prepare for future battlefields, alongside efforts to expand border and maritime infrastructure and ensure the welfare of soldiers, veterans, and their families.

Navy to hold International Fleet Review in Visakhapatnam in Feb.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Naval outreach: India last conducted an International Fleet Review in 2001. INDIAN NAVY

The Indian Navy will organise the International Fleet Review (IFR) in February 2026 in Visakhapatnam. The exercise seeks to reinforce the themes of being "United through Oceans" and strengthening "Bridges of Friendship".

Commander Sreehari S., posted at INS *Agrani* in Coimbatore, said India last conducted an IFR in 2001 to mark 50 years of the Republic. The 2026 edition coincides with the 75th anniversary. He said the maritime domain had become central to India's foreign policy and strategic outreach. With threats such as piracy, climate change, illegal fishing, and economic inequality growing, multilateralism had emerged as indispensable to collective security and sustainable growth. Maritime challenges transcend borders, making collaboration essential. Hence, India had positioned the Navy as a key architect of multilateral engagement, he said.

New Delhi's efforts to strengthen regional maritime capacities include gifting platforms such as a corvette to Vietnam, fast interceptor craft to Mozambique, and commissioning a Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre in Sri Lanka. India's reputation as a dependable partner is shaped by its Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief responses across the Indo-Pacific.

In October, while addressing senior military leaders of UN Troop Contributing Countries, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh reiterated India's commitment to a rules-based international order and called for reforming outdated multilateral structures. Naval diplomacy, he said, remained a vital component of India's strategic toolkit. The India-China dynamic in the Indian Ocean Region, marked by intense competition without naval confrontation, reflected the importance of calibrated maritime engagement.

Today, the Navy participates in nearly 20 bilateral exercises, including SIMBEX, Varuna and CORPAT, and several multilateral engagements such as QUAD, MILAN, Malabar and Konkan. Institutions such as the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium, launched in 2008, have evolved into platforms for dialogue, coordination and cooperative security planning.

WHO calls on countries to make fertility care safer and affordable

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

The WHO notes that while demand for infertility treatments are rising worldwide, access to care remains severely limited.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has called on countries to make fertility care safer, fairer, and more affordable for all in its first-ever global guideline for the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of infertility.

The guideline includes 40 recommendations that seek to strengthen the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of infertility. It promotes cost-effective options at every stage, while advocating for the integration of fertility care into national health strategies, services, and financing. It stresses the need to tackle leading risk factors for infertility, including untreated sexually transmitted infections and tobacco use. Lifestyle interventions, such as healthy diet, physical activity, and tobacco cessation, are recommended for individuals and couples planning or attempting pregnancy. Informing people about fertility and infertility early can assist them in making reproductive plans.

Limited access

The WHO notes that while demand for services is rising worldwide, access to care remains severely limited. "In many countries, tests and treatments for infertility are largely funded out-of-pocket – often resulting in catastrophic financial expenditures. In some settings, even a single round of in vitro fertilization (IVF) can cost double the average annual household income," said a release issued by the organisation on Friday.

The guidelines also provide guidance on steps for effective clinical management of infertility and call for increased investment in prevention measures, including dissemination of information on fertility and infertility in schools, primary healthcare, and reproductive health facilities.

The guidelines suggest how to progressively advance treatment options from simpler management strategies to more complex treatment courses such as intrauterine insemination or IVF. Recognising the emotional toll of infertility, which can lead to depression and anxiety, the guidelines emphasise the need to ensure ongoing access to psychosocial support for all those affected.

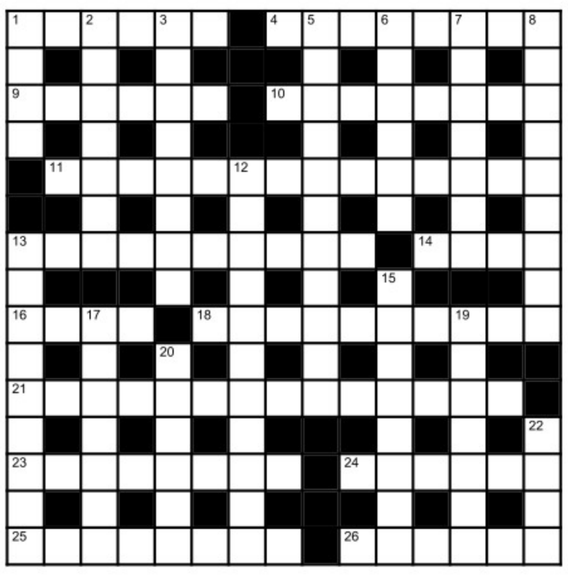
The WHO is encouraging countries to adapt the recommendations to their local contexts and to monitor progress.

TH CROSSWORD + 14652

(set by Hypatia)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://crossword.thehindu.com*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Temperature maintained in green home (6)
4 Police respects symbols of authority (8)
9 Women competent to pick up river bird's call (6)
10 Leaves actor in cast without line (8)
11 Try a lie in an imaginary world (7,7)
13 Impressive hand washing fixture in an emperor's rest room? (5,5)
14 Traces of Indian dals (lentils) in rice cake (4)
16 Report of auditor for 12 months (4)
18 Railing in support of labour going West with American business (10)
21 Reason for an Inuit to visit an Orthopedic? (6,8)
23 Funny caption entertaining one visionary trader? (8)
24 Salim Ali certainly showing hostility (6)
25 Jeopardize outcome with resentment (8)
26 Tough to read without writing (6)

Down

1 Latest time for swimmer (4)
2 Shock from top of thermostat - essentially Air fryer's faulty (7)
3 Restless love - it somehow captivates the French (8)
5 Artistic image using our chairs displayed in firm (11)
6 Layout next to a chiefly residential flat (6)
7 Again, heard every other true story in Eif (7)
8 Second column implicating conservative plot (9)
12 Beginning from MacLean's latest (1,5,5)
13 Spooner's greeting in multiple threads offering glimpse of optimism (3,2,4)
15 Rugged saint carrying sword in Delhi (8)
17 Head of ashram spoiling odd pet taken in (7)
19 Had story writing workshop for artists (7)
20 Oddly added cocoa in plateau (6)
22 Refuse dyeing each new yarn, basically (4)

SUDOKU

	1			9				
9	4				6		1	
	7			2				4
2	9			1		4		
		5		3			2	8
3				7			4	
	5		9				3	6
				6			5	

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

No.SS6715 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

	S	C	A	N	D	A	L	M	O	N	G	E	R	
		A		I		P		I		U		N		
M	R	B	I	G		I	N	S	U	L	A	T	E	D
I		A		H		S		S		L		H		O
S	C	R	A	T	C	H	T	H	E		M	U	O	N
C		E		S				A		C		S		E
A	I	T	C	H	E	S			P	R	E	S	E	N	T
R				A		P		E		R				O
R	E	S	T	D	A	Y		N	O	V	I	S	A	D
I		C		E		M				I		U		E
A	L	O	T		M	A	G	N	A	C	A	R	T	A
G		R		F		S		A		I		F		T
E	X	P	L	O	I	T	E	R		T	E	A	C	H
		I		I		E		C		I		C		
	R	O	L	L	E	R	C	O	A	S	T	E	R	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

5	3	6	9	7	1	2	4	8
8	7	9	4	2	3	6	1	5
4	2	1	6	8	5	3	9	7
3	5	2	8	4	9	7	6	1
6	9	4	7	1	2	5	8	3
1	8	7	3	5	6	9	2	4
7	6	3	1	9	4	8	5	2
2	1	8	5	6	7	4	3	9
9	4	5	2	3	8	1	7	6

FAITH

Significance of Matsyavatar

There is a Tamil saying, *Neerindri illadhu ulagu*. Water is the lifeline of all and to this day, the custom of offering water as a form of prayer after the morning bath is prevalent, although predominantly in rural areas. Water plays a significant role in Matsyavatar, one of the 10 full manifestations of Vishnu, said Damodara Deekshithar.

Satyavaradhan was the king of Madurai, and as was his habit, he filled his cupped hands with water and was about to make his offering, when a fish spoke to him and asked to be saved from the water body. Take me home, it begged. The king returned the water to the *kamandalam* and tried to make another offering, but again the fish appeared, beseeching him. The king finally took it to his palace and left it in a small vessel. It grew too big for the vessel within minutes, forcing the king to transfer it to a pond. By the end of the day the fish had become huge and the king decided to take it to the ocean. The fish said, "I surrendered to you. As per dharma, you should protect me and not abandon me." The king said, "You speak in a human voice. You are no fish. Who are you?" The fish is none other than Perumal. Showing His full form, He said: "The world will go under a *pralayam* in a few days, but you will be saved, rishis will come and bear you away in a ship."

The 10 avatars of Vishnu are a lesson in evolution. One may wonder why God has to descend on earth to help the suffering mankind. When a child falls into a ditch, a mother does not hesitate to jump in and save her child. Similarly, God rushes in to save His creation, a promise He reiterates in the Bhagavad Gita (Whenever there is *adharma*, I will manifest).

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	FRIDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	85,706	-0.01
US Dollar	89.45	-0.10
Gold	1,30,160	0.54
Brent oil	63.28	-0.03

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2280.20	25.20
Adani Ports	1516.90	7.80
Apollo Hosp	7335.50	13.00
Asian Paints	2874.40	-4.70
Axis Bank	1279.70	-7.60
Bajaj Auto	9073.50	51.00
Bajaj Finserv	2094.00	-9.20
Bajaj Finance	1037.50	3.70
Bharat Elec	411.75	-1.30
Bharti Airtel	2101.60	-14.00
Cipla	1531.30	6.10
Coal India	376.15	-1.90
Dr Reddys Lab	1258.80	9.50
Eicher Motors	7053.50	54.50
Eternal Ltd.	300.10	-2.65
Grasim Ind	2739.40	-0.60
HCL Tech	1624.20	-4.80
HDFC Bank	1007.60	-1.90
HDFC Life	764.30	-13.50
Hindalco	808.40	0.85
Hind Unilever	2466.60	14.90
ICICI Bank	1388.80	-3.40
IntGlobeAvi	5901.50	-17.50
Infosys	1560.10	-6.30
ITC	404.25	-0.05
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	306.20	-0.25
JSW Steel	1160.30	-0.30
Kotak Bank	2124.40	14.20
L&T	4069.60	-11.70
M&M	3757.30	76.10
Maruti Suzuki	15900.00	-3.00
Max Healthcare	1162.80	1.00
NestleIndia	1261.10	-5.30
NTPC	326.45	-0.90
ONGC	243.25	-0.75
PowerGrid Corp	269.95	-3.75
Reliance Ind	1567.50	4.10
SBI Life	1966.00	-38.50
State Bank	979.00	6.15
Shriram Finance Ltd.	851.65	-16.00
Sun Pharma	1831.60	21.30
TataConsumerProduct	1172.40	-5.30
Tata Steel	167.96	-0.17
TCS	3137.50	0.90
Tech Mahindra	1517.30	7.50
Titan	3907.70	4.40
Tata Motors PV	356.80	-1.00
Trent Ltd.	4250.40	-15.70
UltraTech Cement	11600.00	-17.00
Wipro	249.53	-0.03

NCLT okays ₹1,950-cr. scheme for NSEL

NEW DELHI

The NCLT has approved a One Time Settlement Scheme between the National Spot Exchange Limited (NSEL) and traders, paving the way for payment of ₹1,950 crore to 5,682 traders, the exchange announced. PTI

Reserve Bank issues 244 consolidated master directions

The directions consolidate all regulatory instructions issued to the REs over several decades and replace 9,446 circulars that are being repealed

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday issued 244 consolidated Master Directions (MD) after undertaking a review of approximately 3,500 directions, circulars, and guidelines issued over the years, in order to reduce compliance burden on the Regulated Entities (REs).

"These 244 MDs consolidate all the regulatory instructions issued to the REs over several decades and are currently administered by the Department of Regulation," said Deputy Governor Shirish Chandra Murmu. Instructions had been issued separately for 11 types of regulated entities and cohesively organised across various regulatory areas.

The 11 regulated entities include commercial banks, small finance banks, payments banks, local area banks, regional rural banks, urban cooperative banks, rural cooperative banks, all India financial institutions, non-banking financial companies, asset reconstruction companies, and credit information companies.

Consolidated master directions have been drafted in a continuous flow approach.

Mr. Murmu said 9,446 circulars are being repealed or withdrawn following the issue of these consolidated MDs.

The consolidated master directions have been drafted in a continuous flow approach, wherein the major elements of master directions had been included in the main body.

Regulatory instructions have been organised into separate master directions for each type of regulated entity on each regulatory area or function.

In addition, residual regulatory instructions have been consolidated in a separate miscellaneous master directions for each regulated entity, he said.

Instructions pertaining to the responsibilities of the boards have been segregated at a single place in each master direction. Advisory elements have been included as part of the main text using appropriate language, conveying the advisory nature of the instructions.

'Mohali semicon lab to be modernised at a cost of ₹4,500 cr.'

Aroon Deep
MOHALI

Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw said that the Semiconductor Lab (SCL Mohali) would be modernised at a cost of ₹4,500 crore in three years.

Mr. Vaishnaw made the remarks at an event here during which teams of students who designed 128 nanometre chips were recognised.

"I also want to clarify that there is no question of privatising SCL," Mr. Vaishnaw said. "We want production at SCL to increase hundredfold."

SCL Mohali comes under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, and fabricates chips that are used in strategic projects like military and space explorations. The facility fabricates 'legacy node chips', which use lithography techniques that are typically less miniaturised than cutting-edge "frontier" chips, found in newer consumer electronics. More recently, SCL has been working on "taping out" chips designed by Indian students, as a part of the Chips 2 Startups (C2S) programme.

The modernisation push for the laboratory would allow the facility to upgrade its ageing equipment. For a period after its inception in the 20th century, SCL was among the most technologically advanced semiconductor facilities in the world; that status ended with a fire in 1989 from which it never recovered, even as countries like Taiwan and Japan pulled ahead.

Ashwini Vaishnaw

A sum of ₹10,000 crore was allocated for SCL's modernisation in 2023 as a part of the India Semiconductor Mission; the amount announced on Friday is the first announced investment from that allocated amount. Mr. Vaishnaw said that the precise figure would be "fungible," indicating that more or less could be spent depending on circumstances.

Punjab land

Mr. Vaishnaw said that as a part of SCL Mohali's modernisation push, it required 25 acres of land. "We have made a request to the Punjab State government, and I am requesting again that this land be made available for the purpose of SCL's modernisation," Mr. Vaishnaw said.

An SCL official said that around one-third of the parcel was occupied by a BSNL office, with unutilised land comprising the rest of the parcel.

(The author was in Mohali at the invitation of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology)

Deposit growth in scheduled commercial banks slows to 9.9%

Ashokamithran T
MUMBAI

Growth of deposits in scheduled commercial banks increased at a slower 9.9% in the second quarter of the current fiscal as against the same quarter in the year ago period, according to data in the basic statistical returns (BSR) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released on Friday.

The growth rate in Q2FY25 was 11.7%.

Deposits have grown at the slowest pace in seven quarters since June 2024.

Private sector banks continued to grow their deposits at a faster pace of 10% compared with the public sector banks.

INBRIEF

E-com firm Meesho's ₹5,421-cr. IPO to open on December 3

SoftBank-backed e-commerce firm Meesho is aiming to raise ₹5,421 crore through its Initial Public Offering (IPO), which opens for subscription on December 3. The company has fixed a price band of ₹105-111 per share, valuing Meesho at ₹50,096 crore ($5.6 billion) at the upper end. In its public announcement on Friday, Meesho said the maiden public offering will close on December 5, with anchor investors set to receive their allocations on December 2. PTI

Aequs' ₹922 crore IPO price band set at ₹118-124 per share

Aequs, a contract manufacturing firm specialising in consumer durable goods and aerospace parts, on Friday set a price band of ₹118-124 per share for its upcoming ₹922 crore Initial Public Offering (IPO). At the upper end, the company will be valued at over ₹8,300 crore. The initial share-sale will open for subscription on December 3 and close on December 5, with anchor investors set to receive their allocation on December 2, Aequs said in an announcement. PTI

Foreign firms challenge Maharashtra's liquor policy

Diageo and Pernod Ricard's Indian lobbying group has sued Maharashtra state over a sharp tax hike on their affordable brands and for excluding the companies from a new lower tax category reserved for some local firms. Between June and August, the state introduced a new policy to boost local investments by creating a category 'Maharashtra Made Liquor', under which manufacturers headquartered in the state with zero foreign investment can offer liquor products with a 270% tax. REUTERS

RBI issues final norms for digital banking channels

Banks must ensure customers across mobile network operators can avail of the service

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday issued final guidelines for digital banking channels, making it mandatory for banks to obtain explicit consent from the customer for providing digital banking services which may be duly recorded/documented.

As per the guidelines, banks cannot make it mandatory for customers to opt for any digital banking channel to avail facilities like debt cards.

"While it may be more convenient for the customer to opt for some services together (for example, virtual access to card controls), the choice to apply for digital banking facilities shall lie solely with the customer. However, it is clarified banks can continue to obtain and record mobile numbers of customers to send transaction alerts and other purposes in line with KYC requirements at the time of opening the accounts," the RBI said.

Risk mitigation

Banks will need to put in place appropriate risk mitigation measures in accordance with policies like transaction limit (per transaction, daily, weekly, monthly), transaction velocity limit, fraud checks, etc. depending on their risk perception.

"It is clarified wherever specific requirements have been prescribed by the Reserve Bank or payment system operators (for example, NPCI, card networks like VISA, Mastercard, etc.), the stricter requirements of the two shall be applicable. Banks shall ensure continuous compliance with instructions issued by DPSS under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 in this regard as updated from time to time," the RBI said.

Banks offering mobile banking service (other than via mobile applications) must ensure customers across mobile network operators can avail of the service, i.e., the service must be network independent.

Banks are required put in place risk-based transaction monitoring and surveillance mechanism.

"Study of customer transaction behaviour pattern and monitoring unusual transactions or obtaining prior confirmation from customers for outlier transactions may be incorporated in the systems in accordance with the Fraud Risk Management Policy of the bank."

Third-party products and services, including those of promoter groups or bank group entities (subsidiaries/joint ventures/associates), cannot be displayed on banks' digital banking channels except as specifically permitted by the Reserve Bank from time to time.

Banks have to clearly communicate SMS/email alerts will be sent to the mobile number/email of the customer registered with the bank.

PRAYAAN CAPITAL PRIVATE LIMITED
CIN:U65900TN2018PTC126232
Regd. Ofc:No. 11, Pillayar Koil 2nd Cross Street, Krishna Nagar, Pammal, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, 600075

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

In compliance with para 42.3 of the Master Direction – Reserve Bank of India (Non-Banking Financial Company – Scale Based Regulation) Directions, 2023 dt. 19 October 2023 and as amended from time to time, notice is hereby given that the shareholders of Prayaan Capital Private Limited **('Company')**, incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013 and registered with the Reserve Bank of India **('RBI')** under Certificate No. N-07-00849 as Non-Banking Financial company, with its Registered office (address as mentioned above), intend to implement the following change in shareholding and management structure of the Company:

Shareholder's name	Existing %				
Madhan Mohan	26.63%	Tharasree Amarnath	0.39%	Patrick Dominic Jayaseelan Kulandaisamy	0.08%
Sujatha Madhanmohan	0.97%	Siddiq Zaman	0.78%	ESOP Pool	3.47%
Akash S Chelvam	10.85%	Accion Venture Lab	7.74%	Sub-K Impact Solutions Limited	24.13%
G S Sivaprakash	0.97%	Renu Grover	0.64%	Total	100%
B Madanagopal	1.94%	Rangarajan Krishnan	0.16%		
R Satish	4.85%	S N Harikrishnan	0.24%	**Shareholder's name**	**Proposed %**
M Rathna Praba	0.58%	72 Degrees Consultancy Services LLP	0.80%	Madhan Mohan	6.19%
Accion Africa Asia Investment Company	4.17%	Dheeshjith G Vattaparambil	0.40%	Akash S Chelvam	2.58%
S Ponnammal	0.58%	Sibin Mohan	0.40%	ESOP Pool	0.88%
VanajaS	0.97%	Krishnakumar Pooloth	0.08%	Rangarajan Krishnan	88.36%
Manoj Agrawal	3.88%	Madhu Krishna Iyengar	0.08%	Jayalakshmi Rangarajan	1.21%
Lakshmi Balaraman	0.97%	Bhupendra Singh Kotwal	0.12%	Srividya Ramakrishnan	0.275%
N Mahaveer	0.58%	Sachin Ramesh Hirani	0.12%	Ramprashanth Ganesan	0.275%
K Subramanian	0.58%	Ramya Jyothi Koppuravuri	0.16%	Eswari Apparswamy	0.22%
Srinivasa Varadhan	0.93%			**Total**	**100%**
Kamal Kanth Tummala	0.78%				

Further, the Company intends to appoint Mr. Rangarajan Krishnan on its board as Managing Director and Mrs. Jayalakshmi Rangarajan as Director. The Company has obtained prior approval for change in share holding and management from RBI vide letter no. CHN.DoR.NRO.No. S297/05.01.001/ 2025-26 dt. November 27, 2025, & letter no. CHN.DoR.NRO. No.S296 / 05.01.001/2025-26 dt. November 27, 2025 respectively.

The change in shareholding & management will support the Company's long-term growth objectives.

Any objections regarding the transfer of control / ownership and management may be submitted in writing to the Company at its registered office within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice or email at info@prayaancapital.com.

A copy of this notice is also available at Company's website:https://www.prayaancapital.com/

For and on behalf of - **Prayaan Capital Private Limited | Mr.Rangarajan Krishnan / Mrs.Jayalakshmi Rangarajan / Mrs. Srividya Ramakrishnan / Mr. Ramprashanth Ganesan / Mrs. Eswari Apparswamy.**

Date: 28 November 2025 Place : Chennai

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER P.W.D. CIRCLE DAUSA
क्रमांक:- पा / 25-26 / डी 3950-3965 दिनांक : 19-11-2025

Notice Inviting Bid
15/2025-26

Bids for **Nit No 15/2025-26, 03 Nos. Road Work** are invited from interested bidders upto **Date 15.12.2025, 06.00 P.M.** Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state and departmental website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 1318.89 Lacs
NIB CODE:- PWD2526A4443 NIB CODE:- PWD2526A4444
UBN. NO:- PWD2526WLOB17568
UBN. NO:- PWD2526WSOB17570
UBN. NO:- PWD2526WSOB17569

(एम एल मीना)
अधीक्षण अभियन्ता
सा.नि.वि. वृत्त दौसा

DIPR/C/17479/2025

CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
8th Floor, Tower-B, World Trade Centre, Nauroji Nagar, New Delhi 110029, Tel: 2618 9709
सत्यमेव जयते

Engagement of Staff Consultants in Finance Division of CERC

Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, invites applications for engagement of Staff Consultants in the Finance Division of CERC on contract basis as per the details given below:

Post	No. of vacancies
Senior Research Officer (Fin.)	01
Research Officer (Fin.)	02

2. Kindly visit CERC's website **www.cercind.gov.in** for detailed qualifications and experience required and other terms and conditions.
3. Interested and eligible candidates may apply online through CERC's official website **https://vacancy.cercind.gov.in/cerc/public.** The applicants are also requested to submit a hard copy of the application in the prescribed proforma to the Deputy Chief (Admin) at the above address, **latest by 5.00 P.M. on 27th December, 2025.**

Sd/-
(Rajiv Kumar)
Deputy Chief (Admin)

TAMIL NADU CO-OPERATIVE SUGAR FEDERATION LTD.,
'AAVIN' ILLAM, 1st FLOOR, 3-A, PASUMPON MUTHURAMALINGANAR SALAI, NANDANAM, CHENNAI - 600 035.
Phone: 044-24330083, 24344177 E-mail: tamilnaducoopsugarfederation@gmail.com

Re-E-Procurement Tender Notice

Online bids are invited for Purchase of 4184 MTs of Burnt Lime Powder by fixing Rate Contract basis for 2025-26 season to all Cooperative and Public Sector Sugar Mills in Tamil Nadu.

For all other details including detailed NIT (Notice Inviting Tender) visit the E-tender portal website **https://tntenders.gov.in.**

The opening of the Part-I will be held on **08.12.2025 at 11.30 AM.**

Place : Chennai 600 035
Date : 28.11.2025 DIPR/6383/Tender/2025

Administrator

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DIVISION, CHITRADURGA

NO.EE/PWD/CHITRADURGA/NIT No. 42/2025-26
Dated 27.11.2025

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

1. The Executive Engineer public works Department Chitradurga Division Chitradurga invites Expression of interest for Selection of Consultant for providing Transaction Advisory Services for Development of Land Parcel (1 Property) at Rampura Village in Molakalmuru Taluk, Chitradurga District on PPP Mode PWD/2025-26/SE0485/call-2 from eligible bidders through KPP Portal of the Government of Karnataka (viz https://kppp.Karnataka.gov.in)
2. Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPP Portal of the Government of Karnataka from Date: 27.11.2025 to 15.12.2025
3. Tenders must be submitted online through KPP Portal on or before 17.30 hours on 15.12.2025 The opening of the tenders will be as per the KPP Portal guidelines.
4. Pre-bid meeting for the above will be held on 05.12.2025 at 11.00 am at the O/o Executive Engineer, Public works Department, Division Chitradurga.
5. The bidders who rejected in the tender, As per KTTP act they should go appeal in the KPP portal only. Written appeals are not accepted.

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/ 498/2025-26

Sd/- Executive Engineer PWD, Chitradurga.

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Kengeri Division, R.R. Nagara Zone, BBMP Office Building, CA No-3, 1st Main Road, Outer Ring Road, Kommaghatta Road, Kengeri Upanagar, Bengaluru - 560 060
No: EE/KEN/TEND/02/2025-26 **Date: 28-11-2025**

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Two Cover System) (Call-1)
(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)

The Executive Engineer, Kengeri Division, invites tenders on behalf of the commissioner, BWCC, Zone-1, Bengaluru from eligible Tenderers for the Construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl No.	Name of the work
1.	Improvements of Roads and Drains at Bhavaninagara and surroundings near SWD in Ward No.26, Doddabidarakallu. **App. Value of Amount put to tender: ₹.240.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.3,60,000/-**

Calendar of Events : (1) Tender documents can be downloaded through e-portal from **29-11-2025**, **4:00** pm. (2) Tenders must be submitted online through KPP portal on or before **12-12-2025** upto **4:00** pm. (3) Pre-Bid meeting on **06-12-2025** at **3:00** pm O/o Chief Engineer, Ideal Homes, Rajarajeswari Nagar Zone, Bengaluru - 98. (4) Last date & Time for Receipt of Tenders on **12-12-2025** upto **4:00** pm. (5) Opening of Bids on **15-12-2025** at **11:00** am.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Kengeri Division, BWCC, Zone-1

REVENUE COMMISSIONERATE, REVENUE DEPARTMENT
BHOOMI MONITORING CELL
1st floor SSLR Building, K.R. Circle, Bengaluru-560001.
E-mail: bhoomi.bmc01@gmail.com Phone: 080-22113255

No: BMC/2025-26/SE0002/Call-2 **Date: 28.11.2025**

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tender is invited for procurement of 50 Skilled Manpower Services to Bhoomi Monitoring Cell office, Revenue Department. The last date for uploading filled tender forms in KPP Portal is **15-12-2025 by 5.30 P.M.**

Details regarding terms and conditions are available at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Assistant Commissioner, Bhoomi Monitoring Cell, Revenue Department.

DIPR/CP/4070/2025-26

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Office of the Executive Engineer
PWD Ramanagara Special Division, Ramanagara, Bangalore South District.

Short Term Tender Notification No. 13/2025-26 Date : 27-11-2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited in **Two Cover System** from the eligible Contractors for **01 Work from Rs. 200.00 Lakhs** through E-procurement Portal as per the Standard Bid Documents. The eligible Contractors can participate in this tender through E-procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

1) Documents May be Downloaded from 01-12-2025 to 15-12-2025, 2) Last Date for Submission of Tender 15-12-2025 upto 16.00 hours. 3) Date of Pre-Bid Meeting : 10-12-2025 at 11.30 hours, 4) Date of Opening of Technical Bid : 16-12-2025 (If possible) at 16.30 hours.

Tender Processing Fees, EMD as per E-procurement. For more information contact the undersigned during Office Hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD, Special Division, Ramanagara, Bangalore South District.

DIPR/Ramanagar/450/Manipal/2025-26

KARNATAKA CO-OPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS' FEDERATION LIMITED
KMF Complex, Dr. M.H. Marigowda Road, DRC Post, Bengaluru-560 029.
Tel: 080-25536625 / 25536789 fax: 080-25536105 E-mail: kmfengg@gmail.com

IFT No: KMF/ENGG/ Butter Melting Vat -NHMPP/02204/2025-26 Date: 28-11-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

[Two cover System] [Through KPP Portal only]

Karnataka Milk Federation Ltd; Bangalore invites tender from the eligible manufacturers/ authorised dealer through KPP Portal for the works mentioned in the table below. The interested manufacturers /Suppliers who have handled similar kind of works may participate in the tender as indicated below, by logging on to website **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and also contact **Help desk E-mail; hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com and helpline no. 080-25501227/ 25501216.**

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Qty.	EMD (Rs.)	Period of Contract
1	Design, Supply, Testing & Commissioning of 3KL Capacity Butter Melting Vat & accessories with SS Valve Fittings & Bend etc to NHMPP Ramanagar.	1 Job	32,500/-	3 Months

(1) Tender schedules may be downloaded from dated: **01-12-2025 to 15-12-2025 upto 4.00 pm. (2)** Last date for Tender submission on date: **15-12-2025 upto 4.00 pm. (3)** Tender [Part 1] to be opened on date : **16-12-2025 at 4.30 pm.**

For Karnataka Milk Federation Limited
Sd/- Director [Engineering-2]

MOSCOW

Russia adds Human Rights Watch to list of 'undesirable' organisations

AFP

Russia added Human Rights Watch to its list of "undesirable" organisations on Friday, effectively banning the New York-based pressure group from operating on its territory. Russia did not give a reason for the decision. The label makes anyone who works with the group or donates money to them liable to prosecution. AFP

DAMASCUS

Israeli forces kill at least 13 people in operation in southern Syria

REUTERS

Israeli forces killed 13 people on Friday in an operation in southern Syria, the deadliest since Bashar al-Assad's fall from power nearly a year ago, which they said was targeting an Islamist group. The Syrian Foreign Ministry condemned the operation as a "war crime" and accused Israel of wanting to "ignite the region". AFP

KYIV

Zelenskyy removes chief of staff after anti-corruption searches

REUTERS

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Friday removed his powerful chief of staff and top negotiator, Andriy Yermak, after detectives searched his house as part of a sweeping corruption probe. Just last week, Mr. Zelenskyy had named Mr. Yermak, 54, as Ukraine's top negotiator in the talks to refine the U.S. plan. AFP

DHAKA

'BNP chairperson, ex-PM Khaleda Zia's condition extremely critical'

AP

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) chairperson and former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's health condition is "extremely critical", party secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said on Friday. The 80-year-old former premier was admitted to a hospital on Sunday night when she developed a chest infection. PTI

Hungary PM defies EU, promises Putin to keep buying Russian oil

'We have not given up cooperation with Moscow in any area, regardless of any external pressure,' says Viktor Orban after meeting Putin; the Russian President thanked Orban for his 'balanced position' on Ukraine despite 'all difficulties'

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orban defied the EU on Friday by promising Vladimir Putin he will keep buying Russian oil, as he attended a Kremlin meeting held in the midst of a diplomatic push to end Moscow's Ukraine offensive.

Mr. Orban – in power in the EU and NATO country since 2010 – has throughout the war maintained ties with the Kremlin, while also criticising Hungary's neighbour Ukraine.

Diplomatic meet: Vladimir Putin with Viktor Orban during a meeting at the Kremlin in Moscow on Friday. AFP

It was the Hungarian nationalist's fourth meeting with Mr. Putin since Moscow launched Europe's worst conflict since the Second World War.

The talks will have infuriated Brussels, which has called on EU members to end their dependence on Russian energy and is trying to make its voice heard in peace settlement negotiations on Ukraine.

"We have not given up cooperation [with Russia] in any area, regardless of any external pressure," Mr. Orban told Mr. Putin. "I would like to reiterate that energy supplies from Russia form the basis of Hungary's energy supply now and will remain so in the future."

Mr. Orban this month said he would take the EU to court over a decision to phase out remaining Russian gas imports to the bloc. Budapest is heavily reliant on Russian energy.

"We greatly appreciate the reliability and predictability of these supplies," Mr. Orban said.

Mr. Putin thanked the Hungarian leader for what he called Hungary's "balanced position" on Ukraine and for maintaining ties with Russia "despite all the difficulties". He said Budapest-Moscow ties were based on "pragmatism".

Mr. Orban – facing re-election next year – said ahead of his trip that he was going to Moscow to "ensure Hungary's energy supply is secured for the winter and the following year at an affordable price".

Imran's son slams Pakistan over his father's 'isolation'

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

Kasim Khan, the son of former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, on Thursday, called for an urgent intervention to ensure his father's safety. The London-based younger Khan's appeal comes as his family and his father's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party colleagues say they have been denied access to the politician who was first arrested in May 2023 and is serving a 14 year sentence on corruption and other charges.

"I call on the international community, global human rights organisations and every democratic voice to intervene urgently," Kasim Khan said.

PTI spokesperson Zulfikar Bukhari had said on Thursday that the senior Mr. Khan was last seen on November 4.

Imran Khan

Absolute blackout

The politician's sisters have also sought interventions to gain access to their brother who is lodged in Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi.

"This absolute blackout is not a security protocol. It is a deliberate attempt to hide his condition and prevent our family from knowing whether he is safe," said Kasim Khan, adding that Pakistan's government and its "handlers" would be held accountable for all consequences of Mr. Khan's alleged isolation.

Imran Khan and his colleagues have alleged that the charges were politically motivated.

Kasim Khan said that neither he, nor his brother, Sulaiman Isa Khan, had had any contact with their father nor seen any "proof of life". The two brothers were born to British TV producer Jemima Goldsmith, Imran Khan's first wife, and moved back to London from Pakistan, with their mother, after their parents divorced in 2004.

Venezuela anti-drug operations 'by land' to begin 'soon': Trump

Agence France-Presse
PALM BEACH

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Thursday that efforts to halt Venezuelan drug trafficking "by land" would begin "very soon," further ratcheting up tensions with Caracas, which claims the anti-drug campaign aims at regime change. Mr. Trump made the remarks while video conferencing with deployed U.S. troops to mark the Thanksgiving holiday.

Several of the U.S. military groups that Mr. Trump addressed were actively participating in his anti-drug operation, dubbed "Southern Spear," which has seen a large military build-up in the Caribbean.

The U.S. military has carried out a series of air strikes against boats it claims were trafficking drugs in international waters, without offering evidence to back up its claims.

Those strikes in the Caribbean and eastern Pacific have killed at least 83 people, according to a tally of publicly released figures.

The remarks come as U.S. continues to pile pressure on Venezuela.

Dozens of bodies found at site of deadly Hong Kong blaze, raising the toll to 128

Associated Press
HONG KONG

Hong Kong firefighters found dozens more bodies on Friday in an intensive apartment-by-apartment search of a high-rise complex where a massive fire engulfed seven buildings. The death toll in one of the city's deadliest blazes rose to 128, and many remain unaccounted for.

First responders found that some fire alarms in the complex, which housed many older people, did not sound when tested, said Andy Yeung, the director of Hong Kong Fire Services, though he did not say how many were not working or if others were. Meanwhile, the anti-corruption agency has said it is investigating possible corruption relating to a renovation project at the complex.

Burnt ruins: The aftermath of a major fire at the Wang Fuk Court residential estate in Hong Kong's Tai Po district on Friday. AFP

The blaze jumped rapidly from one building to the next as bamboo scaffolding covered in netting and foam panels apparently installed by a construction company caught fire.

On Friday, crews prioritised apartments from which they had received emergency calls during the blaze but were unable to reach in the hours that the fire burned out of control, Derek Armstrong Chan, a deputy director of Hong Kong Fire Services, told presspersons. It took firefighters some 24 hours to bring the fire under control, and it was not fully extinguished until Friday morning.

Some 200 people remain unaccounted for, including 89 bodies that have not yet been identified.

UN slams 'execution' of two Palestinians in West Bank's Jenin

Agence France-Presse
GENEVA

The United Nations said on Friday that the killing of two Palestinians, shot dead in the West Bank while seemingly surrendering to Israeli forces, was an "apparent summary execution".

"We are appalled at the brazen killing by Israeli border police yesterday of two Palestinian men in Jenin," UN rights office spokesperson Jeremy Laurence told presspersons in Geneva, calling the incident "yet another apparent summary execution".

He said UN rights chief Volker Turk was calling for for "independent investigations into the killings of Palestinians", and for those responsible for killings and other violations in the West Bank to "be held fully to account".

The Israeli army and police said on Thursday they were investigating the killings in Jenin in the northern West Bank.

The Palestinian Authority said they were killed in a "brutal" summary execution and condemned the incident as a "war crime".

Sport

Cummins ruled out of Brisbane Test

Press Trust of India
SYDNEY

Australia skipper Pat Cummins was on Friday ruled out of the second Ashes Test as the hosts named an unchanged 14-member squad for the day and night game from December 4.

He will travel to Brisbane to continue his return as he's likely to be back for the third Test. Josh Hazlewood has already been ruled out. Usman Khawaja will need to prove his fitness before the Test.

The squad: Steve Smith (Capt.), Scott Boland, Alex Carey, Brendan Doggett, Cameron Green, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Usman Khawaja, Marnus Labuschagne, Nathan Lyon, Michael Neser, Mitchell Starc, Jake Weatherald and Beau Webster.

Inspire vs. Efficacy in Kempegowda Cup

BENGALURU: Inspire and Efficacy may fight out the finish of the Kempegowda Cup (1,500m), the main event of the races to be held here on Saturday (Nov. 29). False rails (width about 6.5m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

1 NOVEMBER PLATE (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only (Terms), 2-45 p.m.: 1. Celestria (3) Akshay K 57, 2. Diesel (1) Likith Appu 57, 3. Jade Mountain (8) Vinod Shinde 57, 4. Rocking Star (7) L.A. Rozario 57, 5. Allegro Dance (2) Jagadeesh 55.5, 6. Jolie's Star (9) Darshan 55.5, 7. Khazana (6) Antony 55.5, 8. Magestic Persona (5) A. Ramu 55.5 and 9. Politesse (4) Darshan 55.5.

1. ROCKING STAR, 2. JADE MOUNTAIN, 3. MAJESTIC PERSONA

2 MUTHYALAMADUVU PLATE (1,600m), rated 20 to 45, 3-15: 1. Sundance Kid (11) Laxman S 61, 2. Hyperdrive (4) Pavan 59.5, 3. Agrador (7) Akshay K 59, 4. Acantha (2) Darshan 57, 5. Sea Diamond (6) Md. Ashraf Reza 56, 6. Mandate (9) Antony 55, 7. Larson (8) Jagadeesh 54, 8. Stella Maris (3) Arvind K 53.5, 9. Star Of The Future (5) Rayan 53, 10. Breeze Bluster (10) R. Girish 52 and 11. Queen Maxima (1) Arshad 51.5.

1. AGRADOR, 2. ACANTHA, 3. MANDATE

3 V. VENUGOPAL NAIDU MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,100m), rated 40 to 65, 3-45: 1. Aquamatic (2) Salman Khan 62, 2. Royal Deccan (4) Antony 60, 3. Flaming Sword (8) L.A. Rozario 58.5, 4. Ziva (7) Pavan 58, 5. Thessalian (3) Vinod Shinde 57, 6. Goddess Of War (5) Mustakim Alam 56.5, 7. Gloriousness (1) Darshan 54 and 8. Mutual Trust (6) Akshay K 52.

1. GODDESS OF WAR, 2. FLAMING SWORD, 3. ZIVA

4 KEMPEGOWDA CUP (1,500m), rated 60 to 85, 4-15: 1. Crosswater (4) Aleemuddin 61, 2. Power Of Beauty (2) Darshan 61, 3. Forseti (1) A. Ramu 56, 4. Efficacy (8) Shreyas S 55.5, 5. Inspire (3) Antony 55.5, 6. Metzinger (6) S. Sachin 55.5, 7. Victoria Doresaani (9) L.A. Rozario 55.5, 8. Bezawada Sultan (5) Sai Kiran 53.5, 9. Lux Aeterna (7) Akshay K 53.5 and 10. Auspicious Queen (10) Angad 51.

1. INSPIRE, 2. EFFICACY, 3. LUX AETERNA

5 CHINTAMANI PLATE (1,300m), rated 40 to 65, 5-y-o & over, 4-45: 1. Invincible (9) Angad 60.5, 2. Lady Invictus (3) Darshan 60, 3. D Fronx (10) Asirvatham 59, 4. Aherne (8) A. Ramu 58.5, 5. Agera (5) L.A. Rozario 57.5, 6. Dynamic Force (7) Vinod Shinde 56.5, 7. Dufy (6) S. Sachin 55.5, 8. Mystical Air (2) Shreyas S 54.5, 9. Golden Time (12) Sai Kiran 54, 10. Ebotse (4) Antony 53.5, 11. El Alamein (1) Akshay K 53 and 12. Double Vision (11) Arshad 51.5.

1. D FRONX, 2. EL ALAMEIN, 3. INVINCIBLE

6 NAGARJUNA SAGAR PLATE (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 4-y-o & over, 5-15: 1. Adelanto (10) Angad 60, 2. Feeling Good (7) Vinod Shinde 60, 3. Elveden (1) Aleemuddin 59.5, 4. She Rules (6) Laxman S 59.5, 5. Yannick (8) Antony 59.5, 6. Absolute Katrina (4) S. Sachin 59, 7. Lockheed (3) Vivek 58, 8. Thrill Of Brazil (2) Jagadeesh 57.5, 9. Mega Success (5) Shreyas S 54 and 10. Forever Royal (9) G. Praveen 53.

1. YANNICK, 2. THRILL OF BRAZIL, 3. SHE RULES

Day's best: **INSPIRE**

Double: **AGRADOR – GODDESS OF WAR**

Jkt: 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6; Tr (i): 1, 2, and 3; (ii): 4, 5 and 6.

LIVE TELECAST

SMAT: JioHotstar, 9, 11 a.m. 1.30 p.m. & 4.30 p.m.

LaLiga: FanCode, 6.30, 8.45, 11 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Sunday)

F1: Qatar GP (Sprint Race), F1 TV Pro, F1 TV Pro App & FanCode, 7.30 p.m.; Qualifying, 11.30 p.m.

Serie A: DAZN, 7.30, 10.30 p.m. & 1.15 a.m. (Saturday)

Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 8 & 11 p.m.

Hockey: Junior World Cup, India vs Oman, SS Select 1 & JioHotstar, 8 p.m.

Premier League: SS Select 2 & JioHotstar, 8.30 & 11 p.m.

Ice Of Fire wins Bangalore 1000 Guineas

BENGALURU: Mr. P. Arun Kumar's Ice Of Fire (Trevor up) won the Zavaray S. Poonawalla Bangalore 1000 Guineas (1,600m), the first Classic of the season held here on Friday (Nov. 28). The winner is trained by Pradeep Annaiah. Jockey Trevor won three races on the day.

1. INFINITE PLATE (1,200m): MOONVEIL (Trevor) 1, Starzella (Mukesh K) 2, Burevestinik (Sandesh) 3 and Atman (Antony) 4. 1, 1-3/4 and 1-1/4. 1m 13.25s. ₹16 (w), 12 and 13 (p), SHP: 26, THP: 28, FP: 32, Q: 19, Trinella: 52/26, Exacta: 79/64. Favourite: Moonveil. Owners: M/s. Blazing Saddles (PF), Mr. Maloji Baburao Bhosale & Mr. Sulaiman S. Attaollahi. Trainer: S. Attaollahi.

2. KUNCHIKAL FALLS PLATE (Div. II), (1,100m): PANDURR (Jagadeesh) 1, Honest Desire (Antony) 2, Roadrunner (Darshan) 3 and Estefania (Aleemuddin) 4. Not run: Glorious Spectre. 2-3/4, 3 and Nk. 1m 07.11s. ₹26 (w), 11, 13 and 13 (p), SHP: 31, THP: 39, FP: 102, Q: 73, Trinella: 154/59, Exacta: 599/260. Favourite: Roadrunner. Owner: Mr. K.L. Gangadhar. Trainer: S. Shoban Babu.

3. SNAP PLATE (1,400m): EAGLE EYE (Trevor) 1, Star Of India (Neeraj) 2, Pole Star (Antony) 3 and Sapporo (Pavan) 4. 5, Snk and Nose. 1m 24.11s. ₹16 (w), 12, 15 and 12 (p), SHP: 45, THP: 38, FP: 55, Q: 40, Trinella: 93/36, Exacta: 773/504. Favourite: Eagle Eye. Owner: Mr. P. Arun Kumar. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.

4. HYDERABAD SILVER VASE (1,600m): EMPHATIC (Neeraj) 1, Sekhmet (Rayan) 2, Global Influence (Suraj) 3 and Kalamitsi (Trevor) 4. 1-1/2, 3/4 and 1. 1m 37.10s. ₹16 (w), 10 and 60 (p), SHP: 71, THP: 25, FP: 91, Q: 76, Trinella: 326/81, Exacta: 420/381. Favourite: Emphatic. Owners: Mr. M. Rishad, Mr. P.J. Vazifdar, Mrs. P.J. Vazifdar, Mr. Nariman Dickey Chothia, M/s. DT Racing & Breeding LLP & Mr. Mukul A. Sonawala. Trainer: K. Purshotham.

5. ZAVARAY S. POONAWALLA BANGALORE 1000 GUINEAS (1,600m):

ICE Of FIRE (GUSTO-AINRA) TREVOR 1,

Elysium (Win Legend-Passion To Perform) Akshay K 2,

Sunshine (Speaking Of Which-Natalma) Sandesh 3,

Bishop (Deauville-Winds Of Fortune) Neeraj 4.

2, Snk and 3. 1m 37.43s. ₹43 (w), 14, 22 and 12 (p), SHP: 92, THP: 29, FP: 691, Q: 332, Trinella: 2,876/942, Exacta: 26,506/11,359. Favourite: Mountain Jewel. Owner: Mr. P. Arun Kumar. Trainer: Pradeep Annaiah.

6. KUNCHIKAL FALLS PLATE (Div. I), (1,100m): RUN FOR THE SUN (Aleemuddin) 1, Noble Cause (Trevor) 2, LG's Star (Pavan) 3 and Shahenshaah (Sai Kiran) 4. Not run: Baltimore. 1/2, 6-1/4 and 1-1/2. 1m 06.98s. ₹18 (w), 10, 14 and 15 (p), SHP: 36, THP: 39, FP: 50, Q: 41, Trinella: 140/147, Exacta: 2,822/2,116. Favourite: Run For The Sun. Owner: Mr. K. Kaliyaperumal. Trainer: Arjun Mangalorkar.

7. GODAVARI PLATE (1,400m): TURKOMAN (Laxman S) 1, Infinite Spirit (Pavan) 2, N R I Gold (Antony) 3 and Striking Eyes (Jagadeesh) 4. Not run: Mystical Queen and Channagide. 4, 1-1/2 and 1-3/4. 1m 28.08s. ₹51 (w), 18, 31 and 16 (p), SHP: 132, THP: 36, FP: 1,096, Q: 285, Trinella: 1,331/417, Exacta: 19,615/16,812. Favourite: N R I Gold. Owner and trainer: Mr. Imtiaz Khan.

Jackpot: ₹1,782 (256 tkts); Runner-up: 129 (1,516 tkts); Treble: (i): 112 (593 tkts); (ii): 621 (138 tkts).

A day to cherish: BTC chairman L. Shivashankar (second from right) with Ice Of Fire owner P. Arun Kumar, winner of the The Zavaray S. Poonawalla Bangalore 1000 Guineas, in Bengaluru on Friday. R. Manjunath Ramesh (left), Steward of the club, Breeder Gurpreet Singh of Bishan Stud (second from left), jockey P. Trevor and trainer Pradeep Annaiah (right) are also seen. K. MURALI KUMAR

LATEST ADDITION

Messi adds Hyderabad as fourth venue to his GOAT Tour in India

FILE PHOTO

Lionel Messi took to social media to confirm that Hyderabad has been added to his India tour next month. After Kolkata, Mumbai and Delhi, Hyderabad will be the fourth venue for his GOAT Tour. The Argentine star is set to land in the city on Dec. 13 and take part in an exhibition match at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium.

TRAINING GROUND

India to play a five-match series against Sri Lanka before WPL

EMMANUAL YOGINI

India will host Sri Lanka for a five-match T20I series ahead of the fourth edition of the WPL to be held in January next year. Visakhapatnam and Thiruvananthapuram have been named as the venues. **The schedule:** December 21 and 23, Visakhapatnam; December 26, 28 and 30, Thiruvananthapuram.

REMARKABLE FEAT

Mhatre becomes the youngest to score a century in all formats

FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

Ayush Mhatre became the youngest batter (18 years and 135 days) to score a century in all three formats of professional cricket – First Class, List A and T20 – after he made an unbeaten 110 in Mumbai's Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy clash against Vidarbha. The previous record was held by Rohit Sharma (19 years and 339 days).

NEW WEAPONS

Comeback man Umran working on slower ones and yorkers

FILE PHOTO: VIJAY SONEJI

A bowler who bowls at 150 (kph) knows that he is a king. It takes real guts to bowl at 150kph and I have been doing this for the last five years. But now I am bowling slower (balls) as well, which I am working on, and also the yorker — pacer Umran Malik after returning from an injury lay-off.

Morkel 'on board' with Rohit, Kohli playing the 2027 WC

The India bowling coach feels that the duo will add immense value to the side; he adds that the think-tank is giving all its energy into the white-ball team now after the 0-2 reverse in the Tests

SA IN INDIA

Ashwin Achal
RANCHI

New challenge: Kohli and Rohit will once again be the centre of attraction. R.V. MOORTHY

The presence of Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli for the ODI leg of the South Africa series should provide some comfort to the worried India fan.

Following the dismal loss in the preceding two Tests, to see the two established, proven winners back on the field will come as much-needed relief.

In the opinion of India bowling coach Morne Morkel, Rohit and Kohli have the quality to feature in the 2027 ICC Men's ODI World Cup.

Experience matters

"They're quality players. As long as they're happy to put the hard work in and the fitness... I've always believed in experience; you don't find that anywhere. They've won trophies and they know how to play big tournaments. So for sure, if they mentally and physically feel that their bodies can do that, [they can play in] the World Cup by all means," Morkel said in a press conference here on Friday.

"I've played many games against them. I've had sleepless nights bowling to them. So, I know as a bowler what goes into your preparation when playing against them.

"I am definitely on board with that [Rohit and Kohli playing the 2027 World Cup]," the former South Africa fast bowler said.

Morkel stated that Shubman Gill, who injured his neck in the first Test, is "recovering well".

On Shreyas Iyer, who copped a serious blow to the abdomen in an ODI against Australia last month, Morkel said: "Shreyas has also started his rehab, which is great. We are looking forward to welcoming them [Gill and Shreyas] back into the squad."

On how the team is coping with the 0-2 loss in the Tests, Morkel added: "Obviously, it was a disappointing two weeks for us, but we have had a couple of days to reflect.

"The important thing now is to give all our energy into the white-ball team. We have some fresh energy with Virat and Rohit coming back."

India crushes Chile in opener; Argentina too good for Japan

HOCKEY

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

Weaving his magic: Rosan, who scored a brace, doubles India's lead. R. RAGU

India demolished Chile 7-0 in its opening Pool-B contest of the FIH junior men's hockey World Cup at the SDAT-Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium here on Friday.

A brace each from Rosan Kujur and Dilraj Singh set up the host's win.

But it was Rosan's two quick goals in the second quarter that opened the floodgates.

Two-time champion Argentina made its intentions clear with a 4-1 victory over Japan in a Pool-C match.

Argentina's Nicolas Rodriquez showed his prowess in penalty corners by scoring a brace. It was a thoroughly commanding performance by the South Americans despite the brief dominance of the Japanese in the first half.

Playing a fast-paced game, New Zealand got the better of China 5-3 in another Pool-C tie.

Trailing by four goals in the fourth and final quarter, China fought back admirably scoring two quick goals through penalty corners.

China, making its debut in the tournament, tried different penalty corner variations in the third and fourth quarters.

However, the fightback came a tad late.

Swiss impress

Another debutant Switzerland scripted an impressive 4-0 triumph over Oman, a last-minute replacement for Pakistan, in a Pool-B contest.

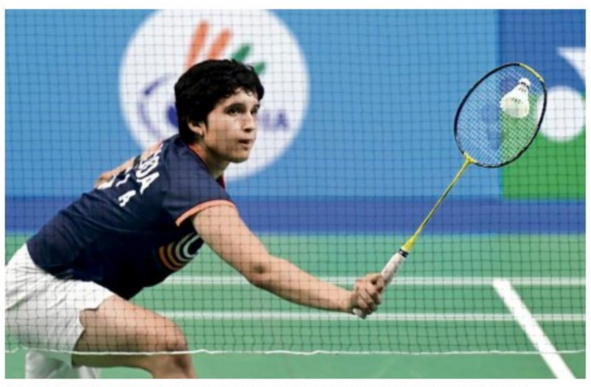
The Swiss were on the attack from the start.

The results: In Chennai:
Pool-B: Switzerland 4 (Jonathan Baumbach 14, Mattia Ribaudo 22, 57, Leonard Kraner 32) bt Oman 0; India 7 (Rosan Kujur 16 & 20, Dilraj Singh 24 & 33, Ajeet Yadav 34, Anmol Ekka 47, Rohit 59) bt Chile 0.
Pool-C: Argentina 4 (Nicolas Rodriguez 1 & 55, Bruno Correa 50, Mateo Torrigiani 23) bt Japan 1 (Naru Kimaru 52); New Zealand 5 (Elmes Jonty 7 (PS), 24, 25, Owen Brown 17, Sarah Lints 22) bt China 3 (Wang Yubo 34, 54, Jialiang Zhang 50).
In Madurai: Germany 4 (Justus Warweg 19 & 56, Ben Hasbach 43, Paul Glander 44) bt South Africa 0; Ireland 4 (Louis Rowe 13 & 33, Gregory Williams 35, Milo Thompson 41) bt Canada 3 (Gurnoor Bhullar 26, Leighton de Souza 48 & 53); Spain 8 (Bruno Avila 5, 24 & 32, Albert Serrahima 20, Josep Martin 27 & 46, Andres Medina 36, Ton Moran 54) bt Egypt 0.
Belgium 12 (Mathis Lauwers 11, 24, 41 & 42, Nathan Rogge 18, Hugo Labouchere 18, 22 & 58, Mathias Francois 30, Benjamin Thiery 30, Lucas Balthazar 36 & 58) bt Namibia 1 (John-Paul Britz 55).
Saturday's matches:
In Chennai: France vs South Korea (1.15 p.m.); Australia vs Bangladesh (3.30 p.m.); Chile vs Switzerland (5.45 p.m.); Oman vs India (8 p.m.).
In Madurai: Netherlands vs England (9 a.m.); Malaysia vs Austria (11.15 a.m.); South Africa vs Ireland (1.30 p.m.); Canada vs Germany (3.45 p.m.).

Tanvi, Unnati and Srikanth storm into the semifinals

BADMINTON

Uthra Ganesan
LUCKNOW



Steady progress: Unnati, who continued her winning streak, will meet Arin in the semifinal. SANDEEP SAXENA

Tanvi Sharma continued her victory march at the Syed Modi India international 2025 with an easy win against Sin Yan Happy Lo of Hong Kong to advance to the semifinal and keep her maiden World Tour title alive on Friday. She will next be up against Japan's Hina Akechi, who shocked Taiwan's Shuo Hun Sung, the highest-ranked player in the competition, 21-8, 21-15.

On the men's side, too, upsets continued as top seed and World No. 19 Jia Heng Jason Teh of Singapore was shocked 21-19, 12-21, 22-20 by 29-year-old Minoru Koga of Japan, a former Junior World Championships medallist ranked 119 in the world. Koga will next play Jason Gunawan of Hong Kong for a spot in the final.

The 16-year-old Tanvi had little trouble against her much taller opponent to win 21-13, 21-19, making up for the lack of smashing power with her tactical play and strategic placements. The first game was over in quick time despite a few errors and Tanvi admitted later that she was nervous at the start.

It was much closer in the second as the Taiwanese stuck to the sidelines and raced to an 18-13 lead. But Tanvi had a few close calls go her way to reel off five consecutive points before sealing the match.

Joining her in the last four was Unnati Hooda with a 21-15, 13-21, 21-16 win against Rakshitha Ramraj to keep hopes of an all-India final alive.

Unnati, in the semifinal, will take on Turkey's Neslihan Arin who beat Isharani Baruah 21-19, 13-21, 21-15.

Mithun in last four

K. Srikanth, meanwhile, set up a semifinal clash with Mithun Manjunath after Priyanshu Rajawat retired down one game and trailing 4-11 in the second. Rajawat, who had twisted his ankle in the opening round, had been playing with a taped leg and also developed a blister on his thumb that affected his movement on court.

Manjunath ended Manraj Singh's dream run with a straight games win for his first semifinal on the World Tour since 2022.

The results (quarterfinals):
Men: Minoru Koga (Jpn) bt Jia Heng Jason Teh (Sgp) 21-19, 12-21, 22-20; Jason Gunawan (Hkg) bt Magnus Johannesen (Den) 20-22, 21-16, 21-19; K. Srikanth bt Priyanshu Rajawat 21-14, 11-4, retd.; Mithun Manjunath bt Manraj Singh 21-18, 21-13.
Women: Neslihan Arin (Tur) bt Isharani Baruah 21-19, 13-21, 21-15; Unnati Hooda bt Rakshitha Ramraj 21-15, 13-21, 21-16; Tanvi Sharma bt Sin Yan Happy Lo (Hkg) 21-13, 21-19; Hina Akechi (Jpn) bt Shuo Hun Sung (Tpe) 21-8, 21-15.

Mhatre named captain for u-19 Asia Cup

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Ayush Mhatre was on Friday retained as captain of a 15-member Indian team for the upcoming u-19 Asia Cup in which the focus will be again on teen batting sensation Vaibhav Suryavanshi.

The age-group continental tournament will be held in Dubai from December 12 to 21 in 50-overs format.

Prepping up

Mhatre had also led India during a multi-format tour of Australia in September and October. Vihaan Malhotra has been appointed as the vice-captain. The tournament will serve as a preparatory ground for the u-19 World Cup, to be played in Zimbabwe and Namibia in January to February next year.

Kishan Kumar Singh has been picked in the squad subject to fitness, the BCCI said in a statement.

India will open its campaign against a yet-to-be-confirmed opponent (qualifier) on December 12 before its match against Pakistan on December 14. It will play another qualifier on December 16.

The semifinals are scheduled for December 19 with the final slated two days later.

The squad: Ayush Mhatre (Capt.), Vihaan Malhotra (Vice-capt.), Vaibhav Suryavanshi, Vedant Trivedi, Abhigyan Kundu (wk), Harvansh Singh (wk), Yuvraj Gohil, Kanishk Chouhan, Khilan A. Patel, Naman Pushpak, D. Deepesh, Henil Patel, Kishan Kumar Singh, Udhav Mohan, Aaron George; **Standbyes:** Rahul Kumar, J. Hemchudeshan, B.K. Kishore, Aditya Rawat.

At the helm again: Ayush had donned the captain's hat during a multi-format tour of Australia. FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

Dubai a global sports hub in the fitness of things

Sankar Narayanan E.H.

Staying active: The Dubai Fitness Challenge is about performing 30 minutes of exercise daily for 30 days. SANKAR NARAYANAN E.H.

Dubai takes pride in being a premier global sporting hub, and rightly so.

And the reputation comes not just from the grandeur of the tournaments hosted or the facilities on offer, but also from leveraging sports to promote public health.

The Dubai Fitness Challenge – the line-up includes the Dubai Run, Dubai Ride, Dubai Stand Up Paddle, Dubai Yoga, along with three Fitness Villages, 30 Fitness Hubs and several events, classes and activities – is a flagship community programme Dubai has been hosting since 2017. The month-long event – being held from November 1 to 30 this year – challenges people to perform 30 minutes of exercise daily for 30 days (30x30).

Sporting nexus

Hosting mega competitions is a major role Dubai plays in the cricketing ecosystem. Apart from staging the willow game's mega tournaments like the T20 World Cup (men's in 2021 and women's in 2024), Champions Trophy, Asia Cup, and IPL, the City of Extravagance regularly rolls out the red carpet for big-ticket events like the DP World Tour Championship Golf, Dubai Desert Classic Golf, Dubai Duty Free Open Tennis, and Dubai World Cup (horse racing).

Such sporting showpieces deserve state-of-the-art venues, which the City of Gold has in plenty – Dubai International Cricket Stadium (called the Ring of Fire), Dubai Sports City, Meydan Racecourse, Dubai Autodrome, Coca-Cola Arena, Emirates Golf Club and Jumeirah Golf Estates.

"Sport is a fundamental pillar of Dubai's vision for a vibrant and cohesive society. It promotes well-being, brings people together and inspires progress," Sheikh Mansoor bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, who chairs the Dubai Sports Council, said in a statement while presenting the Dubai Sports Sector Strategic Plan 2033 in the second week of November.

Dubai's gameplan is simple and solid: be the ultimate destination where champions are watched, future champions are forged, and fitness is a way of life.

(The writer was in Dubai at the invitation of the Dubai Department of Economy and Tourism).

Dubai Sports Sector Strategic Plan 2033 aims to increase the sports sector's annual contribution to Dubai's GDP from AED10.17 billion to 18.3 billion, grow the number of residents actively participating in sports from 1.6 million to 2.6 million, and raise attendance at major events hosted in Dubai from 1.67 million to 4.1 million participants

INBRIEF

Portugal wins its maiden FIFA u-17 World Cup title

Portugal won the FIFA under-17 World Cup title on Thursday, beating Austria 1-0 in the final of a 48-nation tournament where European teams took the first three places. Benfica forward Anisio Cabral found net in the 32nd minute. Earlier in Doha, Italy beat Brazil 4-2 in a shootout after a 0-0 draw in the third-place game.

India u-20 women's football team to play two friendlies

The Indian u-20 women's football team will play two friendly matches behind closed doors against Uzbekistan on November 29 and December 2 at the FC Madras Academy in Mahabalipuram.

The squad: Goalkeepers: Melody Chanu Keisham, Monalisha Devi Moirangthem, Ribansi Jamu; **Defenders:** Alina Chingakham, Cindy Remruatpuii Colney, Juhi Singh, Nishima Kumari, Remi Thokchom, Sahena T.H., Shubhangi Singh, Thoibisana Chanu Toijam, Viksit Bara; **Midfielders:** Anju Chanu Kayenpaibam, Arina Devi Nameirakpam, Bhumika Devi Khumukcham, Khushbu Saroj, Monisha Singha, Neha; **Forwards:** Babita Kumari, Deepika Pal, Lhingdeikim, Shilji Shaji, Sibani Devi Nongmeikapam, Sulanjana Raul.

Niki Prasad guides Karnataka home against Assam

Niki Prasad scored an unbeaten 49 as Karnataka beat Assam by seven wickets in the BCCI U-23 Women's T20 Trophy at Sultanpur on Friday.

The scores: Assam 98/9 in 20 overs lost to Karnataka 99/3 in 19.5 overs (Niki Prasad 49 n.o.).

Himmat's last-ball six helps Delhi edge Tamil Nadu

Dhull smashes a 46-ball 71 for the winning team; openers Tushar and Amith's fifties go in vain; Anukul special clinches a tense chase for Jharkhand against two-time champion Karnataka

SMAT

S. Prasanna Venkatesan
AHMEDABAD

After a run-out referral added to the tension, Himmat Singh threw everything behind his final-ball slash, sending it for a six when two were needed, as Delhi edged Tamil Nadu in a pulse-racing Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy Elite Group-D second-round clash at the Narendra Modi Stadium here on Friday.

Dazzling display: Anukul played the big shots at will in his sensational knock. VIJAY SONEJI

Desperate attempt

Shahrukh Khan at sweeper leapt, stretched an arm, and got a hand to it – but only enough to tip the ball over the rope. Chasing 199, Delhi got home by six wickets – and its dugout erupted.

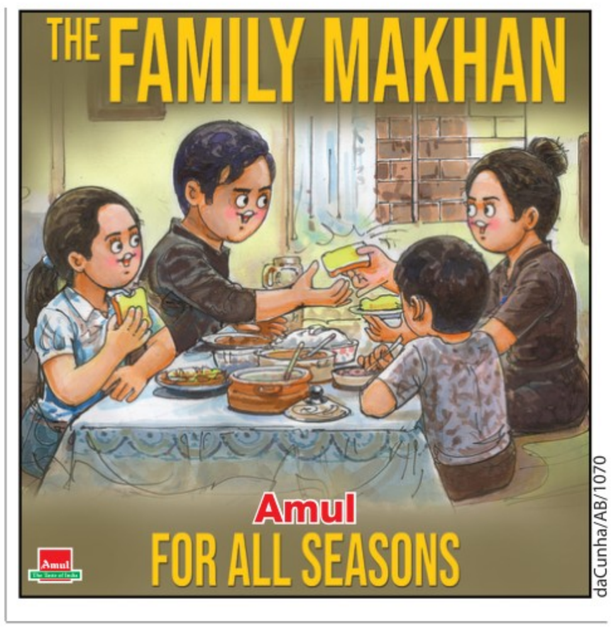
With three needed off two, Himmat tapped left-arm pacer Gurjapneet Singh towards long-off and took off instantly – a single for certain, a second born of desperation.

But there was chaos in the running between Himmat and Anuj Rawat. The former had already run short on the first dash, and now the pair turned again as the fielder charged in, scooped, and fired a bullet throw to the striker's end. The keeper gathered and whipped off the bails. All eyes turned to the signal. The third umpire rolled through angle after angle, frame after frame. It was incredibly close. And then, finally, the verdict flashed: not out. Gurjapneet bowled a nervy full toss outside off for the final ball and paid the price.

Earlier, Yash Dhull (71, 46b, 4x4, 4x6) and Ayush Badoni (41, 23b, 5x4, 1x6) added 61 runs off 31 balls for the third-wicket stand. Dhull dialled up the pressure on left-arm spinner Sai Kishore – first slicing a wide one through extra cover for four, then raising his fifty with a six to cow corner, and repeating the shot for another six before the over closed.

For Tamil Nadu, opener Tushar Raheja led the way with a career-best 72 (41b, 7x4, 3x6) while his partner Amith Sathvik registered his maiden T20 fifty (54, 40b, 8x4, 1x6). Together, the pair added 115 runs off 72 balls.

In the last match of the day, Anukul Roy's unbeaten 58-ball 95 (9x4, 5x6) single-handedly hauled Jharkhand to a 158-run target against Karnataka. Jharkhand won with two wickets and two balls to spare.



daCunha/AB/1070

MUSHTAQ ALI TROPHY — FRIDAY'S SCORES

Elite: Group A (Lucknow):
Railways 149/7 in 20 overs (Navneet Virk 32, K.M. Asif 3/27) bt Kerala 117/8 (Atal Bihari Rai 3/23).
Andhra 184/7 in 20 overs (K.S. Bharat 42, Ashwin Hebbar 39, Ricky Bhui 47, Biplab Samantaray 3/20) bt Odisha 118 in 17.2 overs (Prithvi Raj Yarra 3/4, Saurabh Kumar 3/23).
Vidarbha 192/9 in 20 overs (Atharva Taide 64, Aman Mokhade 61, Shivam Dube 3/31, Sairaj Patil 3/33) lost to Mumbai 194/3 in 17.5 overs (Ayush Mhatre 110 n.o., Suryakumar Yadav 35, Shivam Dube 39 n.o.).
Assam 167/9 in 20 overs (Sumit Ghadigaonkar 79, Pradyun Saikia 37) bt Chhattisgarh 119 in 17.1 overs (Amandeep Khare 46, Shashank Chandrakar 30, Mukhtar Hussain 6/20).
Group B (Kolkata):
Madhya Pradesh 174/8 in 20 overs (Venkatesh Iyer 55 n.o., Harsh Gawali 50, Mohd. Izhar 4/39) bt Bihar 112 in 19.2 overs (Bipin Saurabh 32, Shivang Kumar 3/25).
Hyderabad 191/8 in 20 overs (C.V. Milind 35 n.o., Tanay Thyagarajann 32, Rahul Buddhi 31) lost to Maharashtra 192/2 in 18.4 overs (Arshin Kulkarni 89 n.o., Prithvi Shaw 66).
Uttar Pradesh 193/6 in 20 overs (Aryan Juyal 51, Prashant Veer 37 n.o., Karan Sharma 32, Sameer Rizvi 30, Umran Malik 3/37) bt Jammu & Kashmir 84/9 in 15.3 overs (Prashant Veer 3/20, Vipraj Nigam 3/25).
Goa 173/6 in 20 overs (Lalit Yadav 82 n.o.) bt Chandigarh 121 in 19 overs (V. Kousik 3/12, Arjun Tendulkar 3/17, Darshan Misal 3/23).
Group C (Hyderabad): Haryana 207/9 in 20 overs (Ankit Kumar 51, Nishant Sindhu 61, Ashwani Kumar 3/31) tied with Punjab 207/7 in 20 overs (Anmolpreet Singh 81, Sanvir Singh 30 n.o.); **Super Over:** Punjab 1/2 in 0.3 overs lost to Haryana 4/0 in 0.1 over.
Pondicherry 169/9 in 20 overs (Jayant Yadav 34, Aman Khan 72, Raj Limbani 3/35) bt Baroda 149 in 18.5 overs (Shivalik Sharma 56, Atit Seth 37, Adil Ayub Tunda 4/30).
Himachal Pradesh 199/6 in 20 overs (Ekant Sen 49, Mridul Surroch 75 n.o.) bt Services 116 in 16.5 overs (Vineet Dhankhar 32, Vaibhav Arora 3/16, Arpit Guleria 3/12).
Gujarat 127 in 18.3 overs (Vishal Jayswal 36, Saksham Chaudhary 3/16) lost to Bengal 130/7 in 18.5 overs (Abhimanyu Easwaran 34).
Group D (Ahmedabad):
Tamil Nadu 198/7 in 20 overs (Amith Sathvik 54, Tushar Raheja 72, Prince Yadav 3/43) lost to Delhi 203/4 in 20 overs (Yash Dhull 71, Priyansh Arya 35, Nitish Rana 34, Ayush Badoni 41).
Saurashtra 183/7 in 20 overs (Prerak Mankad 52, Jay Gohil 30, Ruchit Ahir 30 n.o., Jagadeesha Suchith 3/20) lost to Uttarakhand 184/4 in 18.1 overs (Kunal Chandela 94, Aanjaneya Suryavanshi 73 n.o.).
Tripura 169/6 in 20 overs (Hanuma Vihari 36, Sridam Paul 37, Manisankar Murasingh 40, Kamlesh Nagarkoti 3/34) lost to Rajasthan 171/5 in 18.5 overs (Shubham Garhwal 50, Kunal Singh Rathore 33 n.o., Swapnil Singh 3/42).
Karnataka 157/9 in 20 overs (Mayank Agarwal 37, R. Smaran 32, Sushant Mishra 3/39) lost to Jharkhand 158/8 in 19.4 overs (Anukul Roy 95 n.o., Vidyadhar Patil 3/45).
Plate (Pune): Manipur 143 in 19.5 overs (Kangabam Priyojit 60, Swarajeet Das 4/20) bt Meghalaya 118 in 19.4 overs (Bishworjit Konthoujam 3/17, Bidash Chingakham 3/19).
Mizoram 148/6 in 20 overs (Joseph Lalthankhuma 39 n.o., K.C. Cariappa 72 n.o., Gurinder Singh 3/21) lost to Sikkim 149/3 in 17.2 overs (K. Sai Satwik 72 n.o.)
Nagaland 214/4 in 20 overs (Joshua Ozukum 74, Nchumbemo Humtsoe 35, Chetan Bist 36 n.o.) bt Arunachal Pradesh 97 in 16.5 overs (Kara Hakap 37, Rongsen Jonathan 4/10, Akavi Yeptho 3/20).

'Had the belief that my strokes would come off and the game would change'

S. Prasanna Venkatesan
AHMEDABAD

Going hammer and tongs: Dhull smashed four fours and as many sixes in his 46-ball 71. VIJAY SONEJI

Opener Yash Dhull (71, 46b, 4x4, 4x6) was the fulcrum of Delhi's batting as it chased down 199 against Tamil Nadu in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy here on Friday, sealing a six-wicket victory.

Dhull built his innings through three successive partnerships: 52 with Priyansh Arya at the top of the order, 58 with Nitish Rana to consolidate, and 61 with Ayush Badoni to accelerate.

"The black-soil wicket was playing a little better in the first innings, while the ball was coming (on to the bat) a little late in the second innings. So, Priyansh and I were talking about taking the game as deep as we can, which was later echoed by Rana *bhaiya* as well. Even when I had a partnership with Badoni, we discussed the same. I had the belief that my strokes would come off and the game would change," he said after the win. The right-hander's strokes clicked as he seamlessly shifted gears alongside Badoni, transforming the tempo of the chase. During that phase, he took on the experienced spinners, Sai Kishore and Varun Chakaravarthy, with authority. The 23-year-old said he put in extensive practice during the DPL (Delhi Premier League) season and entered this tournament "with the same mindset and approach."

With two hundreds and three fifties, Dhull amassed 435 runs in eight matches at a strike rate of 167.31 for the Central Delhi Kings in the 2025 DPL season.

Reflecting on his 2024 IPL stint with the Delhi Capitals, Dhull credited then-coach Ricky Ponting with instilling the confidence to trust his game.

Sizzling start: Cho had identical cards of six-under on both days. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Gill lies joint seventh, Cho leads the pack

C. Shyam Sundar
AHMEDABAD

Pukhraj Singh Gill produced a series of pars at the back-end to emerge the best Indian pro at joint seventh, along with amateur Ishaan Chawhan (67, 69), after the second round of the $500,000 Bharath Classic 2025 Gujarat tournament at the Kensville Golf Club here on Friday. Gill, tied second after the first day with a six-under 66, had a two-under 70 on the second day. Korean Wooyoung Cho, a gold medallist at the Hangzhou Asian Games, carded another 66 (12-under overall) to move into the lead ahead of compatriot Heemin Chang (64 and 69).

After the cut fell at two-over, 72 players will figure in the final two rounds during the weekend.

The inaugural $500,000 Bharath Classic is joint-sanctioned by the Asian Tour and Indian Golf Premier League (IGPL) Tour.

(The writer is in Ahmedabad at the invitation of the Indian Golf Premier League).

Nieva is coach of Indian women's boxing team

Sports Bureau
KOLKATA

Nieva is expected to join around December 20. FILE PHOTO

Santiago Nieva, the former High Performance Director (HPD) of Indian boxing, will return as the head coach of the Indian women's boxing team.

Nieva, the Argentine-born Swedish coach, who served as the HPD from 2017 to 2022 before switching to Australia for a coaching role there, is expected to join around December 20. He has been hired to train the Indian women's team for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

"There is huge potential in the Indian women's team. In LA28, we will be aiming for something big," said Nieva.

The BFI is planning to shift D. Chandralal, who served as the women's head coach for two World Cups, the World championships and the World Boxing Cup Finals with considerable success, to the men's boxing team for a "strong leadership role."

However, Chandralal is yet to give his consent for the new role offered to him.

"Current head coach Dharmendra Yadav would also remain within the system," Boxing Federation of India (BFI) executive director Col. (Retd.) Arun Malik told the *The Hindu* on Friday.

Besides, the BFI will look to hire a foreign coach for the men's team apart from recruiting a coach educator and a development coach for youth and junior boxers by the first quarter of next year.

"These appointments will be done after consulting Nieva, who has a good idea of the coaches available internationally."

Besides, South African Wayne Lombard would work as a strength and conditioning coach. "He will not work on a full-time basis. Since he has other engagements, he will provide a programme which will be implemented by others," said Malik.

Nayar excited about challenging himself

WPL

Vivek Krishnan
NEW DELHI

At Thursday's mega auction ahead of the Women's Premier League's fourth edition, UP Warriorz was the biggest spender by virtue of having a purse of ₹14.5 crore.

Entrusted with making all the manoeuvres at the auction table was Abhishek Nayar. He was appointed as the head coach of Warriorz in July, and has also been given charge of Kolkata Knight Riders in the IPL. "I think you always feel good after any auction because you get 80% of the players you want. I am very happy in that regard," Nayar told the *The Hindu*. "But I also believe that you don't win due to an auction, you have to play well on the ground."

He is buoyed by the challenge of coaching a WPL franchise for the first time.

"I am quite excited about challenging myself as a coach. I have always believed in getting out of one's comfort zone. When I work with players, I try to do that with them. And I think this is one step in that direction," he stated.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Manoj stars for DYES Bangalore

Manoj scored 23 points as DYES Bangalore pipped Bank of Baroda 82-81 in a men's semifinal league match of the State Association Cup basketball tournament here on Friday. For Bank of Baroda, Arvind top-scored with 24 points.

The results (semifinal league): Men: DYES Bangalore 82 (Manoj 23, Bathesh 18) bt Bank of Baroda 81 (Arvind 24, Aaron 20); Young Orion's SC 72 (Shashank 19, Nathan 13) bt Southern Blues 53.

Women: Beagles BC 59 (Sanjana Ramesh 22, Swathi 13) bt Rajmahal BC 42 (Aadhya 19); South Western Railway 62 (A. Sruthi 28, Bhandavya 18) bt Mounts Club 30; Mounts Club 68 (Nidhi 32, Hannah 15) bt Rajmahal BC 61 (Aadhya Aithal 23, Aishwarya 17).

Surging ahead: Eshaan, winner of the sub-junior title at the finale of the Equestrian Premier League 2025. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Eshaan wins title

Eshaan Sundaram won the sub-junior title at the finale of the Equestrian Premier League 2025 held at the Embassy International Riding School here on Friday.

The results: Senior (advance dressage D4 + 120–120 cm SJ6, 19 yrs & above): 1. Neil Kendall, 2. Isabelle Hasleder, 3. Sresht Raju Mantena; **Junior (pre-novice junior D3 + 100–105 cm SJ4, 15–18 yrs):** 1. Manya Narayan, 2. Arnav Navratna, 3. Shubh Chowdhari; **Sub-junior (pre-novice children D2 + 80 cm SJ2, up to 14 yrs):** 1. Eshaan Sundaram, 2. B. Hashini, 3. Bhargav Babu.

Mustafa triumphs

Mohammed Mustafa won all three of his semifinal league matches to emerge first in the State-ranking junior men's billiards tournament.

The results (semifinal league): Mayank Karthik bt Karan Seshadri 222–177; Mohammed Mustafa bt Ridhimann Shashank 406-153; Karan Seshadri bt Ridhimann Shashank 189-155; Mohammed Mustafa bt Mayank Karthik 251-249; Mayank Karthik bt Ridhimann Shashank 277-137; Mohammed Mustafa bt Karan Seshadri 328-196.

Final standings: 1. Mohammed Mustafa; 2. Mayank Karthik; 3. Karan Seshadri; 4. Ridhimann Shashank.